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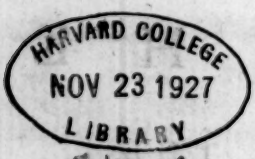

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A HISTORY.

MR. David Dotterel, was the ſon of Mr. Abraham Dotterel, a cuſtom-houſe officer, who ſung an excellent ſong, and bore a good hand at a general election; and therefore was preferr'd to a poſt in a weſtcountry port, which might have been honeſtly worth about 120l. a year, but his enemies have been heard to whiſper, that he made it worth double the money. Having a large family, he got his ſon David preferr'd to be a midſhipman on board a man of war, and then lieutenant. Soon after that event, Abraham fell a

martyr to the good of his country, at Barnſtaple; where a canvaſſing for the election of a new parliament-man threw him into a fever, which put an end to his life.

Notwithſtanding his death, David, his ſon, kept up his intereſt amongſt his father's friends; and tho' he was not very old upon the liſt of lieutenants, yet he had great hopes of farther preferment. But old Abraham dying in very indifferent circumſtances, and David being reduced to half pay, found it very difficult for him to preſerve that figure in life, which, depending, as he did, meerly upon the intereſt of great men, was neceſſary for his ſucceſs. David, to do him juſtice, was ſo far from being extravagant, that he was never known to ſpend a ſhilling upon any object but his own perſon, and that too with great frugality. But the decent appearance he was oblig'd to keep up in the eyes of his patrons, during the time of his ſollicitations, very often anticipated his revenues. David was an exact connoiſſeur

noiſſeur in dreſs; he knew perfectly well when to appear in his uniform, when in lac'd, when in plain cloaths; when in a frock, and when in a full ſuit. He was a perfect critic, in the degrees of riſibility, from the horſe-laugh with a jolly tar, to the complacent ſmile of admiration at the wit and wiſdom of a lord of the admiralty. He had likewiſe a very nice turn for calculation, and knew his expences to a very trifle. Notwithſtanding all theſe uſeful qualifications, lieutenant Dotterel ſometimes met with unexpected incidents, which diſconcerted his œconomy. A rainy morning, upon a levee day, broke terribly into his finances; and if one of his great friends, in a fit of fondneſs, invited him to dinner, the drink money he was obliged to leave the ſervants undid him for half a week.

It was no wonder, if, in ſuch circumſtances, Mr. Dotterel ſometimes had recourſe to a friend, and that friend was Mr. Thomas Darking, the ſubject of the enſuing hiſtory. They were pretty near

of the ſame age and ſtanding in the navy, and happening generally to be on board the ſame ſhip, they contracted an intimacy together, which on Darking's part improv'd into friendſhip, but on Dotterel's, never roſe above conveniency. Darking, however, was the very reverſe of his companion. He never had convers'd with a great man in his life; his uniform, a plain frock, and half a dozen white and half a dozen check'd ſhirts, made up the whole furniture of his wardrobe: he never knew what it was either to have, or to want, a ſhilling extraordinary, tho' he had not the leaſt turn either to parſimony or expence. Thro' the partiality of his captain, who happen'd to be a man of merit, he was Dotterel's ſenior lieutenant; and tho' his behaviour and courage, upon certain occaſions, made him to be conſider'd by the ſailors as one of the braveſt officers in the fleet; yet it never was known that he inſulted his inferiours, quarrel'd with his equals, or ſlighted his ſuperiours. The main part of his character, however, will be illuſtrated by the ſequel of this hiſtory.

While

While Tom was on board, he apply'd himſelf cloſely to his duty; when he was on ſhore he ſeldom ſtirr'd abroad, being very fond of reading, and having no propenſity either to rambling or drinking. He lodged in a clean neat out-ſkirt of the town, with Mrs. Wood, a clergyman's widow, who had been left very poorly by her huſband, and with two daughters earned a painful, but honeſt, livelihood. This manner of life always left Tom ſomewhat to ſpare, even while he was upon half pay, to his friend Dotterel, whoſe good ſucceſs in his application was as agreeable to Tom as if it had been his own.

Two or three times a week Tom generally ſaw his friend, who was very communicative of all the news in town; and was regarded by Tom's landlady and her daughters, as being greatly ſuperiour in every reſpect to Tom, whom they look'd upon only as a good-natured young fellow; and they uſed often to expreſs their ſurprize to himſelf, why he did not avail

himſelf of captain Dotterel's friendſhip to get a ſhip, wiſhing they had ſo powerful an intereſt to recommend them to the greateſt men. Tom uſed to laugh off the matter, and far from endeavouring to undeceive them, he was inwardly pleas'd at the figure his friend cut in their eyes. Dotterel, on the other hand, enjoy'd the ſuperiority ſo much, that at laſt he really came to contract a kind of contempt for his friend's unambitious ſpirit.

One afternoon Mr. Dotterel, as uſual, paid his friend Tom a viſit, but the latter was a good deal ſurprized at the airs of civility and complaiſance he put on. Inſtead of 'Well Tom, how doſt thou do?' he accoſted him with the appellation of, 'Mr. Darking, I have done myſelf the 'pleaſure of calling upon you, as I was 'paſſing this way.' Darking imagining that his friend was a little upon his fun, as he term'd it, anſwered him in the ſame grave manner, till, by degrees, he found out that Dotterel was appointed to the command of a twenty gun ſhip.

'Well,

'Well, dear Dotterel, ſays Tom, and how 'was it? Let us hear a little about it.' Dotterel anſwered his familiarity only with a ſmile of vaſt contempt, and a viſible uneaſineſs to be gone, being that night to ſup with one of the lords of the admiralty.

'Heigh-day,' ſays Darking, rubbing his eyes after Dotterel was gone, 'what 'the duce is the matter with this fellow?' 'He's none of your fellow now,' ſaid the elder Miſs Wood, who from that moment took a greater liking than ever to captain Dotterel. She then launched out in the praiſe of neat dreſs, genteel behaviour, and polite converſation; and declar'd it as her firm opinion, that no man of her acquaintance had more merit than Mr. Dotterel.

Darking was ſo perfectly void of all gall and envy, that he ſeem'd to take no notice of Miſs Wood's ill-manner'd taunts, but ſincerely rejoic'd in his friend's good fortune. He could not, however, avoid obſerving, that ſome days had paſt with-

out his ſeeing Dotterel, tho' he had call'd ſeveral times at his lodging, which the two Miſs Woods were not at all ſurprized at, ſince, 'to be ſure captain Dotterel 'would not now chuſe to be ſeen familiar 'with every one; eſpecially one, who 'by his manner of dreſs and behaviour, 'ſeem'd to have no ambition to appear as 'a fine gentleman. 'Theſe wipes made no impreſſion upon Darking, tho' he underſtood extreamly well what they meant. He thought himſelf ſecure of Dotterel's friendſhip, and that his not ſeeing him was owing to the confuſion and hurry he was in at his firſt entering upon his command.

One morning, however, he was ſurpriz'd by a letter from his friend in the following terms.

'SIR,

'I have the pleaſure to inform you, 'that their lordſhips of the admiralty 'have been pleaſed to appoint you to be 'my lieutenant, on board the ———;

'and

'and that in ten days time I am ordered 'to proceed to the Downs, and from 'thence to the Weſt-Indies.

'I make no doubt but your behaviour 'as an officer, will give me an opportu- 'nity of mentioning you in a favourable 'light to their lordſhips; and I hope that 'you will take care to provide yourſelf in 'every thing that is ſuitable for a gentle- 'man, and as my lieutenant; ſo as that 'when I arrive there, I may not be aſham'd 'to ſee you walking the quarter deck, 'as I have there a great many friends and 'relations of the very firſt faſhion. I 'likewiſe expect that you will repair on 'board as ſoon as you poſſibly can, as I 'have a great deal of buſineſs to do, and 'a great many viſits to pay before I poſ- 'ſibly can leave London. Your ſpeedy 'compliance with this order, will oblige,

'SIR,

'Your very humble ſervant,

'David Dotterel.'

'To lieutenant Thomas Darking.'

There are certain ſituations in life (and this is one of them) that give a writer pain in deſcribing them. A kind, generous, open friendſhip, ſuch as that which Darking entertain'd, was doubly ſhock'd upon this occaſion. He accuſed his own indolence, in thus ſuffering his junior to get the ſtart of him in point of preferment; and he was almoſt aſham'd to reflect, that his own undiſtinguiſhing partiality for Dotterel had been the main inſtrument of his ſucceſs, and had in fact left him without the means of making that appearance which his captain recommended and required.

Such were the conſiderations that all at once ruſh'd into Darking's mind upon his receiving and reading his friend's inſolent letter. A thouſand little circumſtances, which had paſt unnoted before, now crowded ſo faſt upon him, that he continued for ſome time almoſt motionleſs, thro' amazement at his own ſtupidity, in having been ſo long the dupe of a worthleſs

leſs ſcoundrel. In fact, it was the goodneſs of his own heart, that had blinded him ſo long to the faults of Dotterel. He now readily recollected a thouſand inſtances of his meanneſs, ſelfiſhneſs, and vanity; with certain incidents that render'd his courage very queſtionable in Tom's eyes.

A heart that is capable of friendſhip, is always poſſeſs'd of great ſenſibility; and the warmer the friendſhip is, the ſtronger are its reſentments when the object of it proves worthleſs. But Tom's reſentment, upon this occaſion, was mix'd with great indignation and contempt. He conſider'd himſelf as chiefly to blame, and reſolv'd to puniſh himſelf by a quiet reſpectful reſignation of himſelf to his deſtiny. The time he had for preparing neceſſaries for his voyage was very ſhort, and upon examining his finances he found that he had even anticipated his revenues to accommodate his friend, who ow'd him upwards of 150l. without his having either note,

bond, or acknowledgment to ſhew for the debt.

That conſideration, however, gave Tom no manner of concern; it never enter'd into his head that he could have the ſmalleſt difficulty in recovering his money, and he went with that intent to talk with the captain at his lodgings. The door was opened to him by a very jemmy French valet, who ſhow'd him into a parlour, and carried his name up to the captain. After about twenty minutes ſtay the ſervant came back, and told him, with a look of great inſolence, that his maſter imagin'd he had been by this time with the ſhip; that he was then very buſy, but that if he call'd in two hours the captain would ſee him. All Tom's reply was a ſhrug of the ſhoulders; and as he had neither buſineſs nor acquaintance, at that end of the town, he went to a coffee-houſe in the neighbourhood to read the papers, and lounge away the time till his captain ſhould be viſible.

Darking

Darking had not continued there ten minutes when captain Dotterel came in. He ſeem'd a little diſconcerted at ſeeing Tom, but preſerv'd great coolneſs, and hop'd that he was in health; or that no accident had happen'd to keep him ſo long from going on board. Tom was by this time entirely cur'd of his ill-judg'd friendſhip, and reſum'd that excellent good ſenſe, in which he was as much ſuperiour to Dotterel as he was in every virtue of the heart. He preſerv'd the appearance of moſt profound reſpect for his captain, and treated him with great marks of deference. He told him at laſt, that he had receiv'd his commands to repair on board; but at the ſame time he had the honour to underſtand, that he muſt appear in ſuch a manner as ſhould do no diſcredit to his captain, and that was the only conſideration which kept him on ſhore, ſince he had not a ſhilling to put any thing upon his back. Dotterel, hardned as he was, redden'd at this ſpeech; and ſeeming to pauſe for an anſwer, took an opportunity to catch at a bow from another

another ſea captain, with whom he immediately fell into talk; telling Tom that he was then in a hurry, but would take an opportunity to look over his papers, and that he wiſh'd he would go on board as ſoon as he could, for he could not diſpenſe with his being longer on ſhore.

Tom was thunderſtruck with theſe words; at firſt he could ſcarcely credit his own ears, till the captain repeated them in a very peremptory tone; and, abruptly turning his back, gave Tom to underſtand, that he was reſolv'd to hold no longer diſcourſe with him. When he return'd home he fell a ruminating upon his condition, but ſoon drown'd all reflection, with an honeſt reſolution to do his duty, to behave as a man of honour, and to leave the reſt to providence. He made a ſhift, however, to diſcharge his lodging; and putting the little luggage he had on board a boat, he quietly fell down the river the very next morning, and went on board his ſhip. In two or three days Dotterel came on board, and after a very cold

cold ſalutation on both ſides, orders were given to get under ſail to proceed for the Weſt-Indies, in company with two other men of war, and a large fleet of merchant-men under their convoy.

The weather proving extreamly boiſterous, Dotterel's ſhip was ſeparated from her company; and early next morning Darking deſcry'd a ſail, which he ſaid he believ'd to be a French Martinico-man, or a Spaniſh Regiſter-ſhip; but the captain, ſnatching the glaſs out of Darking's hand, affirm'd it was a man of war, greatly ſuperiour in force to himſelf. Darking knew his reaſons for ſaying ſo, and reſolv'd to expoſe him. He appeal'd to the other officers, who almoſt unanimouſly were of his opinion; only the purſer, who ſerv'd the captain in the nature of a ſecretary, join'd his captain with a warmth, that Darking thought did not become him to expreſs, and he told him ſo to the captain's face. Dotterel, however, was inflexible in his reſolution not to attack the prize, (for ſo it afterwards prov'd) whom they

they ſaw making all the ſail from them ſhe could, and was ſoon out of ſight. Darking, who was in hopes of making his fortune, was ſo heartily vex'd at his diſappointment, that he was over-heard by the purſer to d——n all cowards, and the purſer very punctually carried his expreſſions to the captain. Dotterel's prudence inclin'd him to take no notice of them at firſt; but Darking, who knew the purſer to be a thorough ſcoundrel, and that he purchas'd his place from Dotterel, by partly giving and partly lending him a good round ſum of money, reſolv'd to be reveng'd of his impertinence; which, thro' the captain's countenance, encreas'd every day; till at laſt, having given Darking the lye, the latter returned it with a ſound drubbing, to the great ſatisfaction of the whole crew.

This incident vex'd Dotterel to the very ſoul. He moſt ſincerely hated Darking upon ſeveral accounts. Firſt, becauſe he had more courage and more merit than himſelf. Secondly, becauſe he owed him the

the ſtrongeſt obligations; and laſtly, becauſe he was conſcious that Darking knew he was a coward, and that he could not juſtify his letting the prize eſcape. At the ſame time, all theſe motives were equally ſtrong for his not provoking Darking; while, on the other hand, he was inceſſantly teized by the purſer, who openly accuſed the ſaid Darking of mutiny, and offered to prove that he had ſeveral times call'd the captain a coward. Dotterel would very willingly have accepted of any kind of ſubmiſſion from Darking, and gave him many opportunities, either of retracting what he was accuſed of, or of diſproving the whole charge. But Darking had a ſoul above all meanneſs. He preſerv'd a ſullen ſilence with regard to the captain and purſer; and, at the ſame time, took care to diſcharge his duty ſo punctually, that malice and envy could not find the leaſt error in his conduct.

By this time Dotterel's ſhip had rejoined the convoy; and it appeared, that the veſſel he had ſuffered to eſcape was a very rich

rich Spaniſh ſhip, which two days after had been taken by a privateer of force inferiour to Dotterel's ſhip. This was confirmed by the Spaniſh captain, who ſaid, that if Dotterel had attack'd him, he and his crew were in no condition to have reſiſted. It was no wonder if Darking was farther exaſperated at this diſcovery, not only on his own account, but on that of the brave fellows who had been ſharers with him in his diſappointment, and who now loudly joined with him in his reſentment. In ſhort, matters came to ſuch extremity, that Dotterel thought it was his ſafeſt courſe to pluck up a ſpirit, and by the purſer's inſtigation he order'd Darking to confine himſelf to his cabbin; and that too in ſuch harſh unmannerly terms, that the priſoner determined within himſelf to reſent with the very firſt opportunity.

But Dotterel had no ſooner taken this ſtep than he repented of it, and trembled for the conſequence. The purſer, however, repreſented to him, that it was the ſafeſt

ſafeſt courſe he could purſue; that when Darking was brought to a court-martial, there was no danger of his being convicted, ſince the reſt of the captains never would encourage mutiny, nor a ſpirit of fighting where there was evident danger. He ſtrengthen'd thoſe ſagacious obſervations by many examples; and concluded, that when Darking ſhould find that no regard was had to his complaints and repreſentations, (which, he ſaid, would certainly be the caſe) he would be glad to make matters up, and come into a proper ſubmiſſion. Notwithſtanding all the purſer could ſay, Dotterel was very uneaſy at his ſituation. He knew, that in fact, if he could bring Darking to a court-martial for the expreſſions charged upon him by the purſer, and if thoſe expreſſions were proved by any, even the ſmalleſt degree of evidence, he would be mulcted, and perhaps diſcharg'd the ſervice. But the laſt was the very circumſtance which terrify'd him the moſt, becauſe Darking would then be upon a footing to require perſonal ſatisfaction of him; beſides, he knew, that if Darking

ſhould

ſhould apply to the admiral in the Weſt-Indies, who happen'd to be the ſame who had preferr'd him, he would himſelf be brought to a court-martial for his behaviour in the affair of the prize, which was ſo notorious, that he thought it was the beſt courſe to huſh up the whole affair. He communicated all his apprehenſions, his doubts and difficulties, to his counſellor, the purſer, who was of very different ſentiments; and was reſolved, at any rate, to be revenged of Darking. He went ſo far as to reproach Dotterel for his puſillanimity, and threw out ſome hints that he would even turn evidence againſt him if he did not proceed againſt Darking.

Dotterel's ſituation is an eminent proof how very low a man may fall, after he is known to be a coward; for there was not, perhaps, in the whole navy, ſo groveling and ſo abject a wretch as this very purſer, who now inſulted his captain. But Dotterel had ſagacity ſufficient not to expoſe himſelf farther, by making this ſcoundrel his enemy likewiſe. He told him,

him, upon his honour, that he would proſecute Darking to the utmoſt; but that, as he lay under great inconveniences as to the navigation and diſcipline of the ſhip while he was under confinement, he was under a neceſſity to take off his arreſt. Scanty, for that was the purſer's name, had no objection to this propoſal, provided Dotterel continued firm in his other reſolution; and the arreſt being taken off, that very afternoon, Darking returned to his duty on the deck, and perform'd it all the reſt of the voyage without exchanging a ſingle word with his captain, ſave what paſt in neceſſary orders.

This behaviour continued to give Dotterel the moſt cruel uneaſineſs. He had laid many opportunities, for a reconciliation, in Darking's way, and had they been ſucceſsful he would have made no difficulty of breaking with Scanty. But Darking behaved with ſo firm, yet decent a reſerve, that he eaſily foreſaw he only waited his opportunity. By this time they were at the end of their voyage, and having

ing ſeen their convoy out of all danger they join'd the admiral, who was cruizing off the Leward-Iſlands with five or ſix ſail of the line. The admiral, however, was a good deal ſurprized, when he underſtood that Dotterel commanded Darking; but not doubting that their lordſhips of the admiralty had their reaſons for Dotterel's preferment, he contented himſelf with reſolving to provide for Darking the firſt opportunity that offered; and hinted as much to ſome of the other officers, who carried the news to Dotterel. He immediately conſulted with his friend Scanty what was to be done. It was plain that the admiral was prepoſſeſſed in Darking's favour, which render'd it very unadviſeable to bring him to a court-martial, eſpecially as the whole crew were crying out ſhame upon their captain for his behaviour during the voyage.

The only expedient they could think of was to compromiſe matters with Darking, and for that end the captain call'd him one afternoon into his own cabbin; and none

none beſides being preſent, Dotterel begged the favour of Mr. Darking that he would be ſeated. Darking excuſed himſelf; ſaying, that having been put under arreſt, and having yet undergone no tryal, by which he could be either acquitted or condemn'd, he muſt ſtill look upon himſelf as a priſoner, and his captain as being at the ſame time his judge and his proſecutor.

'Pho, Pho, prithee, Tom,' ſaid Dotterel, handing him a chair, 'no more of 'that; you and I uſed to be good friends, 'and why ſhould we fall out now?' 'That 'you beſt know, ſir,' reply'd Darking, with a ſmile of infinite contempt. 'Come, 'come, Tom,' continued Dotterel, 'we 'have, perhaps, been both of us to blame. '—But, Tom, don't I owe you ſome 'money? Upon my ſoul, I was aſham'd 'to look you in the face, when I was on 'ſhore, as I had it not in my power to 'pay you: you know how very hard it 'was with me ſometimes: when we get 'to Jamaica, however, I have credit, and

'you may depend on every farthing of 'your money, and upon every thing I 'can do to ſerve you.' There was ſo much meanneſs, after Dotterel's behaviour, in his laſt words, that Tom, notwithſtanding all his philoſophy, either natural or acquired, loſt his patience. 'Lookee, cap-'tain Dotterel,' ſaid he, 'by G—d you 'ſhall do me juſtice in that and in every 'thing elſe.' Any other perſon but a conſummate coward, as Dotterel was, would have known what reply to make to theſe words, which Darking pronounced with a tone of reſolution, and an air of menace. But Dotterel was not a man to be diſcouraged by one miſcarriage. 'Prithee, 'Tom,' ſaid he, 'why in ſuch a paſſion? 'Can't you and I talk matters over coolly, 'as we have done a thouſand times, with-'out any heat on either ſide? I am this 'very afternoon going to ſee the admiral, 'who is your friend; and if you diſlike 'being in this ſhip, I make no doubt you 'may have your choice of any in the 'ſquadron.' Tom made very little reply to what his captain ſaid, only he told

him that, 'he was determin'd to have 'ſatisfaction into whatever ſhip he went.'

The mind of man is ſo inconceivably fantaſtic that the ſame principle makes it often move in reverſe directions. Dotterel was ſo thorough a coward, that he was frighten'd out of his cowardice into ſpirit. Clapping his hat haſtily on his head, 'Well, you ſcoundrel,' ſaid he, to Darking, 'you ſhall have ſatisfaction, and I 'will have ſatisfaction too.' In ſaying theſe words he quitted the cabbin, and left Darking equally ſurpriz'd and pleas'd, with the manner of his behaviour. Being quite clear within himſelf, as to his innocence, he had nothing to fear, but every thing to hope, from a court-martial; and if Dotterel meant perſonal ſatisfaction, that was the thing in the world he moſt ardently deſired. Following Dotterel up to the deck, he gave Darking orders to remain in the ſhip, and upon no account to leave it till he ſhould return; and then calling for the long-boat he went on ſhore, having obtained leave of the admiral for

that purpoſe, under the pretext of an indiſpoſition.

Darking was a man of ſuch nice honour, that during his captain's abſence he made no manner of application to the admiral, tho' he had hourly opportunities of doing it, and tho' he had all the reaſon in the world for believing that he would be favorably heard. On the contrary, he did not diſcover the ſmalleſt diſguſt, either to the crew, or to the great number of his companions and acquaintances who came to ſee him. But the third day after the captain had been on ſhore, in the afternoon, a ſignal was made for Darking, as being the commanding officer, to come on board the admiral, who receiv'd him as his brother. 'Tom,' ſaid he, 'I am 'glad to ſee thee, but I am ſorry too; I 'mean, to ſee thee commanded by that 'fellow Dotterel; I hope he behaves well 'to you.' Darking, who had formed his reſolution, ſaid nothing in anſwer to this, that could impeach Dotterel's conduct, or diſcover what had paſt between them; and after

after ſome general converſation, the admiral taking Darking by himſelf into his cabbin, he there told him he had had intelligence of a French Martinico-man very richly laden, but as ſtrong to the full as Dotterel's ſhip: Now Tom, continued the admiral, as I believe Dotterel will not be very fond of the jobb, this ſhip if ſhe is as rich as ſhe is reported, may make your fortune; or, at leaſt, if you behave yourſelf, as I hope you will, the taking her will get you credit and preferment. I dare not ſend a large ſhip in queſt of her, but if you keep ſnug ſhe will take you to be a merchantman, and can ſcarcely miſs falling into your hands. I muſt, however, give Dotterel the firſt offer; and as I don't chuſe to truſt any other, you muſt carry him my orders in your own perſon; but I ſhall not at all be diſpleaſed if he ſhall ſham ſickneſs, or make any other excuſe; this is Monday, continued he, and you muſt, in all events, be ready to ſail by Wedneſday morning: you have, therefore, no time to loſe, and I would have you go from this directly to Dotterel, that you

may order matters accordingly. Darking, after expreſſing his gratitude to the admiral, immediately received his orders, and taking his leave, was carried aſhore.

It was no hard matter for him to find out Dotterel's lodging, and there he underſtood, that he was that night at one Mrs. Manby's aſſembly. As Tom was very indifferently dreſt, he had no ambition to appear in ſuch polite company, as he ſuppoſed would be there, and yet there was a neceſſity for his delivering his orders with his own hand. He therefore went to Mrs. Manby's houſe, and ſent up word to Captain Dotterel, that one waited for him below, who had a letter for him, and wanted to ſpeak with him in all haſte. Dotterel was then engaged in a very puzzling game at whiſt, and Mrs. Manby being his partner, ſhe inſiſted upon the meſſenger being brought up ſtairs, and delivering his letter there. Darking was accordingly ordered up. His firſt ſalutation from Dotterel was, 'Damme, what 'brought you here?' 'The Admiral's or-

'ders,'

'ders,' replied Tom, with great compoſure, preſenting him with the letter, which Dotterel, retiring to a corner, read. Whilſt he was reading it, a ſolemn pauſe enſued in the company, who by Darking's dreſs, and Dotterel's behaviour, were at a loſs to learn, whether Tom was a ſervant, or a ſeaman; but their ſuſpence was ſoon at an end, when Mrs. Manby ſtarting up, took him by the hand, and in a moſt tender, affectionate manner, ſeated him by herſelf, and filling ſome wine, preſſed him to drink. By this time, Dotterel had read his letter, and calling Tom aſide, put it into his hand, telling him, at the ſame time, that he was ſo very ill, that the phyſicians of the iſland were of opinion, it was as much as his life was worth, to venture to ſea, eſpecially as he was then under a very ſtrict regimen. Tom could ſcarce forbear laughing in his face, when he heard Dotterel talk in that manner; but he compoſed himſelf as well as he could, though he ſaw Dotterel's hands trembling all the time he was reading the letter, which he did two or three times over; 'You muſt,'

continued he to Darking, 'get on board 'with all diſpatch; here are my orders 'from the Admiral, (putting the letter 'into his hand) to-morrow, I will ſend 'you mine, and you muſt get the ſhip 'ready, and by Wedneſday morning you 'muſt be under ſail; begone, I ſay, di-'rectly —.'

In ſaying theſe words, Dotterel rejoined the company, ſeeming very eager to finiſh his game at whiſt. But the ſcene was greatly altered, and the ſerenity, which uſually attends that contemplative diverſion, was ſtrangely overcaſt. Uneaſineſs, impatience, confuſion and indignation hung upon the brow, and diſorder'd the look of Mrs. Manby, who had always before been remarkable for being the ſoul of good humour, and the very ſpirit of good company. Perceiving Darking making his bow to be gone, ſhe proteſted againſt it ſo ſtrenuouſly, that Dotterel was obliged to tell her that the King's ſervice muſt not be neglected, and that the Admiral's orders abſolutely required he ſhould ſend his lieute-

lieutenant on board that night. Notwithſtanding this peremptory declaration, Mrs. Manby inſiſted ſo earneſtly upon her requeſt, that Dotterel, who had ſome reaſons why he would not venture to diſoblige her, ſaid, 'Well, Mr. Darking, as the ladies are not againſt it, you ſhall have my leave for ſitting down, provided you think you can be on board time enough to-night.' 'If I did not think ſo,' replyed Darking ſternly, 'it would not be your leave, as you call it, ſhould determine me.' 'You have my leave, Sir,' ſaid Mrs. Manby, 'to make yourſelf as welcome as you pleaſe to my houſe.' Upon this, Darking advanced, and ſaluted her with a very reſpectful, yet genteel, bow, and ſhe, in a manner, obliged him to take her own ſeat. 'Captain,' ſays ſhe, turning to Dotterel, 'I did not think your leave was neceſſary for my ſhewing the civilities of my houſe to a ſtranger, and a gentleman.' 'A Gentleman!' ſaid Dotterel, with a high ſneer, turning to Miſs Baker, an antiquated virgin who was of the party. 'She has it,' reply'd Miſs

Bald, but ſo ſoftly, that Mrs. Manby did not hear her. The truth is, ſhe was ſo much employed in her aſſiduities about Darking, that, by this time, the whole company began to be amazed, as the reader, no doubt, begins to be impatient to know ſomewhat farther concerning Mrs. Manby herſelf.

She was a widow lady about four or five and forty, but, by far, the fineſt woman in the iſland: her ſtature was rather tall than otherwiſe; her ſize was more plump than fat; but her height had nothing about it that was aukward, and her bulk rather added to, than took from, her delicacy. Her hair was raven black, and, when undreſt, it fell into thoſe beautiful ringlets, and that graceful diſorder, with which the fancy of Vandike adorned his fineſt portraits. Her eyes were full, and inexpreſſibly ſweet, though lively; and the fineneſs of her ſkin and complection, left nothing that was deſirable wanting in her perſon. Her huſband, to whom ſhe was married about eighteen years, had been

been dead about twelve months, and left her immenſely rich, but without any children. Her conduct, during her marriage ſtate, had been irreproachable in every reſpect, and it was chiefly owing to her cares and induſtry, that her huſband was enabled to leave her ſo large a fortune. As he was pretty far advanced in years when ſhe married him, it was generally thought that her firſt ſtep, when a widow, would be to England, where ſhe would fall a prey to ſome briſk fortune-hunter, or be buried in the arms of ſome old miſer, as her turn, either for gallantry or riches, ſhould direct her. Far from that, ſhe never alter'd her way of life, but continued the ſame good humoured, hoſpitable, manner of receiving and entertaining all about her. Nothing was to be ſeen in her houſe, or equipage, that was either above, or below her fortune; and all her behaviour without the leaſt ſtiffneſs, or formality, was formed upon the niceſt plan of decorum, and regularity. After giving the reader this character of Mrs. Manby, it may be thought unneceſſary to acquaint him, that

ſhe was a woman of good ſenſe, in the moſt extended acceptation of that word; I mean, comprehending vivacity, and even learning, at leaſt, that learning that is proper for a woman. She was a perfect ſtranger to all the failings, to call them by no worſe a term, to which women of faſhion, whoſe conduct is under no controul, are too often ſubject in a melting luxurious climate. Her converſation was extremely entertaining, and ſhe made a decent uſe of that freedom, which her age and ſituation of life, with that kind of rank which money gives (eſpecially in that iſland) entitled her to.

As to Darking, he was now about twenty-five years of age, his perſon well made and genteel, his complection healthful and ruddy, owing, perhaps, to his temperance, and his indifference about all objects, but the diſcharge of his own duty. Yet Tom was no flincher, when he was ſeated with a few agreeable companions; and though he ſeldom drank to exceſs, yet he had a peculiar vein of humour, aided with

with more reading than commonly falls to young fellows of his ſtation, that was very enlivening in converſation, and never ſuffered his company to grow inſipid. When he was with ſtrangers, he was baſhful, but his baſhfulneſs proceeded from modeſty, without any of that ſheepiſhneſs that reſults from ignorance, or inexperience.

Though Tom was the moſt inoffenſive creature in the world, yet he was very quick in his obſervations, and ſomewhat jealous, of what we call, being play'd upon. This made him a little diſtruſtful of Mrs. Manby's aſſiduities, and well knowing what a friend he had in his captain, he was afraid, as he term'd it, of being rak'd afore and aft, and made ſeveral attempts to ſheer off. But Mrs. Manby laid too cloſe along-ſide of him for that, and obſerving his impatience to be gone, ſhe imputed it all to Dotterel's unmannerly behaviour, for which his honour paid very ſeverely, during the reſt of his viſit.

'Pray, captain, ſaid Mrs. Manby, how

have I affronted you, that you ſhould deprive me of the only agreeable companion I know of your ſex.' As Darking had never ſaid nor done any thing ſince he had entered the room, all the company, but Miſs Baker, now concluded, that the widow had a mind to make herſelf merry at the expence of Darking; and Dotterel was ſo firmly convinced of it, that he was the firſt who propoſed, that Darking ſhould ſtay ſupper. This was a ſufficient hint for Darking to be gone; 'No, Sir, ſays he (looking at his watch) I have had my orders, and the King's buſineſs requires me to go on board.' 'But, Sir, you are to attend my orders,' ſaid Dotterel. 'Yes, Sir, ſaid Darking ſternly, on board the ſhip, but any where elſe, I'll ſtand the conſequence of diſobeying you, and your orders too.' 'Sir, ſays Dotterel, you ſhall hear of this in another place.' 'Another place! ſaid Darking; lookee, Sir, you ſay, I've a couple of hours ſtill to ſpare, and as this place is a very unfit one, I am at your ſervice in any other place.' In ſaying this, he walked once

or

or twice round the room, and Dotterel took that opportunity of mixing himſelf with the ladies in a bye corner, whiſpering, demonſtrating, and explaining to them, why he could not, in point of decorum, and in juſtice to his own rank, take any farther notice of the fellow at that time.

Mean while, Mrs. Manby, as ſhe has been heard often ſince to ſay, was in a moſt unaccountable ſituation. Her heart fluttered both through fear and joy; ſhe felt a kind of anxious exultation at Darking's ſpirit; nor would ſhe check it, by preſſing him to ſtay any longer; yet, by an involuntary kind of impulſe, ſhe catched hold of his arm; 'Lieutenant, ſays ſhe, I am ſorry this has happened in my houſe, and I'm afraid by my means; but the ſpirit you have ſhewn, though becoming a brave man, may come yet to coſt you dear; as you are now, in ſome meaſure, in that fellow's power: but, here, wear this for me; who knows what ſervice I may be of to you? ſend it to me, my boy, if ever you have occaſion for

for my aſſiſtance.' In ſaying this, ſhe pulled a diamond ring, worth a hundred guineas, from her own finger, and clapt it upon Tom's.

Darking, even at this critical juncture, imagined that the lady was playing upon him; and as he had no manner of concern about him, as to what had happened with Dotterel, he was reſolved to pay the widow in her own coin, and to carry the joke farther than he thought ſhe intended. 'Egad, madam, ſays he, looking upon the ring, and giving her an hearty kiſs, when I come to Jamaica again, you ſhall make a fool of me for an hundred nights running, if you pay me as well every time.' He then turned round, and walked haſtily out of the room, imagining every inſtant, that ſome new trick would be ſprung to expoſe him farther, by making him return the ring. 'Pray, my dear, ſaid Mrs. Moody, a rich planter's wife, to Mrs. Manby, haven't you carried this joke too far, by letting this fellow carry off the ring?' 'No, madam, reply'd

reply'd Mrs. Manby, not if the fellow, as you call him, had carried me and my fortune along with it.' In ſpeaking theſe words, the tears ſtarted, ſo that ſhe was obliged to apply her handkerchief to her eyes.

The reader can ſcarcely figure to himſelf the ſituation of the company during this ſcene, which was ſo very much the reverſe of Mrs. Manby's behaviour and character. The whole of it might have paſt as a piece of humour, had it not been that the company knew the value of the ring, and ſaw the dreadful agitation into which ſhe was thrown, aſſoon as Darking was gone.

But Dotterel was the moſt intereſted in the explanation of the riddle. As he had been ſeveral times upon the iſland before, he had been very well acquainted with Mr. Manby, and always had been welcome to his houſe. Hearing of his death upon his late arrival, he went to pay the widow a viſit, who on account of the acquaintance be-

between him and her late huſband, gave him a ſincere welcome, and a general, though hearty invitation to her houſe, the ſame as in the time of her late huſband. But lieutenant Dotterel was now a captain; his perſon not amiſs, his age about four and thirty, his purſe not over loaded, and himſelf a batchelor; and why might not he have pretenſions upon a fine rich widow, who would be proud to be called a captain's lady? As Mrs. Manby did not ſuſpect his intention, and was the leaſt captious woman upon earth, ſhe behaved to him in the ſame obliging manner as before, which Dotterel look'd upon as an infallible omen of his good ſucceſs. He liked her perſon, but he adored her money, for money was the centre of all his ſchemes, both in love and life. A perſon of this caſt, has a greater extent at low cunning, than can poſſibly come into the mind of a truly wiſe man. It enter'd into his thoughts to make the widow fond of him, before he would begin his approaches in form. By this means, he imagined, there would be the leſs difficulty for

for him to get all her money in his own hands. He conſidered with himſelf, that, unleſs her inclinations were ſtrongly engaged before-hand, ſhe might inſiſt upon terms which he could not decently refuſe, and he did not chuſe to truſt to any affection ſhe might conceive for him after marriage. Dotterel knew himſelf, the world, and the widow too well for that, and behaved with ſo much tenderneſs, reſpect, and ſubmiſſion, that Mrs. Manby could no longer avoid taking notice of it. She, however, very juſtly concluded, that it would be time enough to give him a proper anſwer whenever he ſhould aſk the queſtion. As ſhe was above all reach of cenſure, ſhe had no manner of uneaſineſs on her own account, and did not care to make any other perſon uneaſy. She therefore choſe to ſuffer the captain's paſſion, if he had any, to go off in the natural way, without any violent anticipation. But perceiving his aſſiduities encreaſe, and that he grew every day more particular, ſhe thought it now time to come to an eclairciſſement

ciſſement, and had lately given him ſeveral opportunities of declaring his intention.

Dotterel perceived this, but conſidered it as proceeding from the violence of her inclination; and ſo refined was he in his politicks, that he ſpun the thread too fine. He redoubled his aſſiduities, and the widow, by aſking herſelf one blunt queſtion, 'What can the fellow's meaning be?' ſaw, at once, through his intention, and from conſidering him in the light of rather ſomething higher than a tollerable acquaintance, ſhe deſpiſed him, as a low mercenary tool of intereſt. Such actually were her ſentiments, when Darking made his appearance in her houſe. She was then beginning to contrive ſome handſome method of getting rid of him, and nothing could have fallen out that ſuited ſo well with her own inclinations, as the incident of Darking's arrival. Her heart was intereſted in reſenting it; and though what happened was an accident, that upon any other occaſion ſhe would not ſo much as have reflected upon, yet it became capital in her eyes,

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as it affected Darking. Dotterel, however, was ſo prepoſſeſſed with the notion of her attachment to him, and ſo nettled at Darking's affronting him, as he did, that he did not take much notice of what had paſſed. He propoſed playing out the rubbers, but Mrs. Manby deſired to be excuſed. 'Damn the fellow, ſaid Dotterel, who imputed all Mrs. Manby's uneaſineſs to Darking's behaviour, that he ſhould ſpoil our game; but I'll make him repent it, madam.' Mrs. Manby's heart was too full for her to give any anſwer to this inſolence, as ſhe thought it; and ordering lights, ſhe made her excuſes to the company, for being, on account of a ſudden indiſpoſition, obliged to retire for that night to her own bed-chamber.

Mean while, Darking had gone in high glee to an adjacent coffee-houſe, expecting every minute to hear farther from Mrs. Manby about her ring. Though he did not know much of the prices of diamonds, yet he could eaſily perceive, that it was of more than ordinary value, and ſome of his com-

companions in the coffee-houſe aſked him, whether he had taken a prize, that he could afford to wear a ring worth a hundred guineas. All this encreaſed Darking's amazement, but he ſoon begun to reflect upon the meaſures he had to keep with his captain. After ſome deliberation, he reſolved to write him a letter, ſomewhat between a challenge and a compliment; which he did in the following terms.

" Sir,

" As I am afraid I ſhall not have the " honour to ſee you again before I ſail; " and as you was pleaſed to ſay, that I " ſhould hear from you in another place, " I could not go on board without ſend- " ing this, to pay you my reſpects, and " to acquaint you, that having about two " hours to ſpare, I ſhall be heard of at " this place, where you may addreſs your " commands to,

" Sir,

" Your moſt obedient,

" Humble Servant,

" T. DARKING."

Dot-

Dotterel received this letter, after he had returned from Mrs Manby's to his own lodging. Darking, hearing nothing during the limited time from his captain, he went on board, and putting every thing in order, he was under ſail on Wedneſday morning. After a cruize of eight or ten days, he fell in with the Martinico man in the very latitude the admiral had deſcribed, and obſerving his orders exactly, his enemy was ſo far from running away, that he bore full down to attack him within muſket ſhot, when Darking ran out his guns, and poured a broad-ſide into the Frenchman. The latter was ſurprized, but not daunted with this unexpected ſalute, and having a fine ſhip, ſuperior in force to the Engliſh, he fought for ſome time with great intrepidity, till Darking running along-ſide of him, engaged him yard-arm to yard-arm, the Frenchman's fire began to ſlacken. Their officers, however, ſtill refuſed to ſtrike, till they found their ſhip ſinking, and they had juſt time to pull down their colours. Darking received

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ed all on board he could poſſibly ſave, and upon enquiry, found, that the Frenchman had loſt fifty men, and himſelf ten, beſides a good many wounded on both ſides.

Though the obſtinacy of the French captain and officers vexed Tom to the very heart, becauſe it loſt him a good prize, yet he treated his priſoners with the greateſt humanity; and having brought them to Jamaica, where they were examined by the admiral, they extolled Darking's courage and conduct; and to crown their encomiums, they ſaid he behaved as politely to them as if he had been a Frenchman born.

Though this expedition brought Darking little or no acceſſion to his fortune, yet it was of great ſervice to his reputation; and the admiral now impatiently waited for an opportunity to advance him. But Darking had not forgot the treatment he had received from Dotterel, and thought it was now high time to reſent it. He therefore wrote a very reſpectful letter to the admiral,

admiral, in which he briefly recapitulated the heads of all the differences that had happened between him and Dotterel; and concluded with acquainting the admiral, that he desired to be brought to a court martial, that his conduct might be either cleared or condemned. "If, Sir, continued his letter, my own interest, or reputation was only at stake, I think both of them are in so little danger of suffering by any thing that has happened between my captain and me, that I should not recriminate in any judicial way; but the duty I owe my King and country, will not suffer me to conceal that they have a coward employed in their service, that that coward is my captain, and I am ready to make good my charge at any court martial you shall appoint."

Upon receiving this letter, the admiral sent for Dotterel, and communicated it to him. It was no more then he expected, and was prepared for. Without appearing to be surprized, he told the admiral, that

that having a very great regard for Darking, he had hitherto, out of tenderneſs, concealed his miſbehaviour, becauſe he was afraid, that the charge he would be obliged to bring againſt him might affect even his life, it being no leſs than mutiny. The admiral knew both parties too well, to give much credit to what Dotterel ſaid, but told him that a court martial ſhould be very ſoon appointed for trying Darking, and deſired him to have his charge in readineſs.

The admiral then diſmiſſing Dotterel, ordered Darking to attend him, and told him what he was to expect from his captain. Darking very frankly own'd the charge, but juſtified himſelf upon the provocation, and gave the admiral a fair detail of all that had happened. "Look-"ye, Tom, ſaid the admiral, I have as "mean an opinion as you can have of "Dotterel; and I believe, a better opinion "of you, than you can have of yourſelf; "but take my advice, let me make this "affair up, and let it be dropt on both "ſides; conſider by whom you are to

"be

" be tryed. I know your men better than " you do, I know ſome of them are brave " men, and men of honour, but others of " them, I know to be of the Dotterel kind, " who will think that his, may be their, caſe " to-morrow. Beſides, mutiny has an ugly " ſound, and from what I have ſaid, you " may eaſily conceive what juſtice you are " to expect: go back to your ſhip, take a " few days to conſider the affair, and let " me know; I will undertake to make mat- " ters eaſy with Dotterel." Darking, who had never given himſelf time to ſtudy the nature of courts-martial, thought there could be no harm in the admiral's advice, and accordingly took his leave, promiſing him in a few days, to come to a final reſolution.

As Dotterel's ſhip was now refitting in the harbour, Darking was every day on ſhore, and had frequent opportunities to hear the widow Manby's health toaſted. He had been for ſome time in dayly expecta tions of having a demand made upon him or the ring, and thinking that the joke had

been carried far enough, he acquainted a friend of his own, one Mr. Matthews, a gentleman of the iſland, who he knew was very intimate with Mrs. Manby, with the whole adventure of the ring. Matthews liſtened to him with great attention, and after a pauſe of recollection, he grew very ſerious upon the matter, 'Tom, ſaid he, 'I heard a little of this affair before, and 'there is ſomewhat in it more than you 'imagine. The widow, ever ſince that 'night, has ſeen very little company. I 'was indeed admitted to her, but it was 'by way of particular favour, and now, 'that I think of it, moſt of our diſcourſe 'was about you, though ſhe did not know 'your name till I informed her, from her 'deſcription of your being Dotterel's lieu-'tenant. Her enquiries, I do aſſure you, 'were then very particular, about your 'birth, fortune, age, and a thouſand cir-'cumſtances, which you well know I am 'an utter ſtranger to, and therefore, I 'think, your beſt way will be, for me to 'get leave from the widow to introduce 'yourſelf to her again.'

Dark-

Darking bluſhed, while Matthews was holding this diſcourſe, but he was not ſuch a novice, as not to begin to ſuſpect, that there was ſomewhat more than ordinary in Mrs. Manby's behaviour. He began now to reflect what a fine woman ſhe was, and what tender intimations ſhe had given him of her inclinations, all which, were more than confirmed, as often as he caſt his eyes upon the ring, which he wore upon his finger. After another bottle, he began to open himſelf a little more explicitely to his friend Matthews, who was a man of ſenſe, and ſincerely wiſhed Darking well. After talking and ruminating over the affair for ſome time, Matthews was a good deal inclined to believe, that it would be worth Tom's while, to feel the widow's pulſe, as he termed it, that he might know what ſhe meant, by all her behaviour. Next day, Matthews accordingly ſent to Mrs. Manby a card, early in the morning, to acquaint her, that he drank her health the evening before, with Mr. Darking, who was very deſirous to wait

upon her, when ſhe was pleaſed to give him leave.

An anſwer was immediately returned by the widow, that ſhe would be very proud if Mr. Matthews and Mr Darking would dine with her that very day. They accordingly waited upon her. I ſhall not entertain the reader with any deſcription of Mrs. Manby's œconomy and politeneſs; it is ſufficient to ſay, that their entertainment was extremely elegant, if not magnificent; and Mrs. Manby's behaviour to Darking, ſeemed to leave him no room to doubt that ſhe intended to make him her huſband. Upon their taking leave, they retired to Matthews's houſe, who now very warmly intereſted himſelf in Darking's welfare, and adviſed him, by all means, to ſtrike while the iron was hot. This he enforced by all the arguments and topics that are common on thoſe occaſions; ſuch as, the uncertainty of life, the fickleneſs of a widow's fancy, and the like. Tom, who had never thought of theſe matters, was a good deal puzled at firſt. Almoſt all in the ſame breath, he bluſh'd, ſhifted his ſeat,

fell into meditation, drank the other glaſs, and looked full in Matthews's face, as if he had ſomething to ſay to him, but did not know how to ſpeak it. Then, caſting his eyes upon the ring, he meaſured the room with leiſurely ſteps, with his look rivetted to the floor, and, returning to the bottle, toaſted the widow's health in a bumper, and all without the leaſt intimation by words, of his thoughts or intention. The third bottle, however, rendered Tom a little more communicative, and he opened his mind pretty freely to Matthews; he candidly told him the whole affair between himſelf and Dotterel, and he thought it highly unadviſable for him to make any advances in the matrimonial way, till that matter was over. He acquainted him, at the ſame time, with what had paſſed between him and the admiral, with whoſe opinion Matthews heartily concur'd: but Darking could not underſtand that piece of policy, becauſe he thought the affronts he had received from Dotterel, were too groſs to be paſſed over without ſome ſatisfaction, either judicial or perſonal. 'I agree with you,

'ſays Matthews, they are, but as to ſatiſ-
'faction in a court-martial, I think, it is al-
'moſt out of the queſtion, you can have
'any: ſo far from it, you have yourſelf a
'chance of being broke, if not hanged; and
'for you to drub, or challenge the ſcoundrel,
'while you are under his command, would
'be the height of madneſs. But, continued
'Matthews, you ſay the admiral is your
'friend; let me adviſe you firſt to make
'ſure of the widow; and beg the favour of
'him that you may have leave to reſign your
'commiſſion. You then will be upon equal
'terms with Dotterel, and in poſſeſſion of
'fortune ſufficient to enable you to perſue
'what courſe of life you pleaſe.'

Darking thought this advice very good;
'But, friend Matthews, ſaid he, are you ſure
'the widow will have me?' 'I am almoſt
'ſure,' ſays Matthews. 'And do you think,
'plies the other, that the admiral will give
'me leave to reſign?' 'Aye, and thank you
'too, ſays Matthews, for he can oblige
'another friend with your commiſſion.' It
was then agreed between them, that Tom
ſhould pay a tête a tête viſit to the widow,
next

next day. This he accordingly did, and was admitted, without any ceremony, into her cloſet. The firſt thing ſhe did, was to give orders in Darking's hearing, to be denyed to all company, be who they would. She then loaded Darking with her careſſes, to ſuch a degree, that he thought ſhe ſcarcely left him any room to aſk her the queſtion.

Though Tom's education had given him no great tincture of delicacy, yet he was a little ſhocked at the eaſineſs, as he thought it, of his conqueſt, and wiſhed with all his heart, that the widow had given him a little more ſport. At laſt her forwardneſs had ſuch an impreſſion upon him, that ſtarting up, he fairly ſhut the cloſet door, and taking the widow round the neck, gave her ſuch a kiſs, as ſhewed he was reſolved, with her leave, to repeat the ſame familiarity. But how was he ſurprized at ſeeing her colour all at once leave her face, all the luſtre of her eyes extinguiſhed, or loſt in wild amazement, her perſon ſeized with an

univerſal trembling, and then ſinking motionleſs upon the chair.

This was a new Phenomenon to Tom; he knew not how to conſtrue it; he had indeed read and heard of the extaſies of lovers, but he plainly perceived, that Mrs. Manby's agony was not of that kind. In ſhort, his fears got the better of his deſires; he opened the door and rung the bell, and Mrs. Manby's woman immediately came into the cloſet. By this time, the widow was quite recovered, and Tom was beginning to curſe himſelf for an eaſy fool, but was ſoon undeceived, when ſhe roſe with great compoſure, and ordered her woman to wait her Call in the next room. 'Mr. 'Darking, ſaid ſhe, ſhutting the cloſet door, 'I am afraid that you and I miſunderſtand 'one another.' 'I am afraid ſo too, Madam,' (replyed Tom, with a very perplexed air, which drew a ſmile from the widow). 'But 'upon my ſoul, Madam, I—I—I mean to be 'upon honour.'—'And ſo do I, ſays the wi-'dow; but, come, ſir, ſit down, and we 'may perhaps very ſoon come to a right un-'der-

'derſtanding.' The air and the calm manner, in which Mrs. Manby expreſſed herſelf, at laſt opened Darking's eyes, and he began to more than ſuſpect, that he had quite miſtaken his purpoſe. 'Really ma-'dam, ſays he, I find I am a d——n'd ſilly 'fellow, that could not perceive the diffe-'rence between complaiſance and inclinati-'on. If I have been to blame, madam, the 'beſt thing you can do, is to turn me out of 'doors, by way of puniſhment; but as you 'hung out falſe colours, how could I help 'wiſhing to come on board?" "'Tis very 'well, Mr. Darking, reſumed ſhe, I under-'ſtand what you mean, and perhaps I have 'been to blame in not conſidering ſooner 'what a young gentleman of your complexi-'on and years can bear from a woman like 'me, who finds it more difficult to check 'the impulſes of her fondneſs, than to de-'ſpiſe the cenſure of the world.'——'The 'world, madam, ſaid Tom, who was more 'and more confounded at the widow's man-'ner of ſpeaking, the way to ſtop the mouth 'of the world, is to give way to thoſe im-'pulſes; I cannot for my life think what

'you have to fear from the world, if we do 'things in a lawful, honourable way. A 'parſon has the beſt charm in nature to pre-'vent your being haunted by the impertinen-'ces of the world.' —— 'No more of this 'talk,' replied the lady with the tears trickling down her cheeks, —— 'let us 'come to an explanation. My conduct 'is ſtill more unaccountable than you can 'imagine; what you ſeem to ſuſpect are ſo 'far from being my motives in the proofs I 'am ready to give of my regard for you, 'that I moſt ſolemnly ſwear, were I in-'clined to give my perſon to any one, you 'are the laſt man in the world on whom I 'would beſtow it, either in love or mar-'riage.' —— And yet, continued ſhe, I 'know not how far I could go to ſerve 'you with my fortune or intereſt.' During this ſpeech, Tom had one of his hands in his breaſt, the other in his pocket; his eyes were careleſly examining the cieling, and he was humming a tune through the meer inability he was under to comprehend the widow's meaning, and whether ſhe was in jeſt or earneſt. 'Name the thing,

'con-

'continued ſhe, ſeeing him in this reverie, 'that I am not ready this inſtant to do, to 'ſerve you.' The hiſtory of the ring, which Tom happened at that very time to have upon his finger, came now full into his thoughts, but ſerved only to heighten his perplexity. Upon her inſiſting, in the moſt paſſionate manner, to know what ſhe could do for him; 'Do for me, Madam? 'ſaid he peeviſhly; you can do nothing for 'me, unleſs you fight for me; that is the 'only favour I can do for myſelf at pre-'ſent.' Mrs. Manby then begged him to explain himſelf, and that in ſo affectionate a manner, that Darking not only recounted the affair between him and Dotterel, but all the converſation and concert that had paſſed between him and Matthews.

After ſome pauſe, ſays Mrs. Manby, 'And ſo you thought proper firſt to make 'ſure of the widow.' 'Tis very true,' anſwered Darking. 'And what would 'have been your next ſtep?' proceeds ſhe. ——'Why —— why ——Madam, replyed 'Darking, I would then have thrown up

'my commiſſion, and have taken ſatisfac-
'tion of Dotterel, without putting myſelf
'to the trouble of a court-martial.'— 'And
'pray, Mr. Darking, what hinders you
'from doing that, though you do not
'make ſure of the widow?' 'I cannot do
'it at all, Madam, replies Darking, with-
'out the riſk of being hang'd or ſhot for
'my pains. I am not worth a ſhilling
'but by my commiſſion; while I ſerve
'under him I cannot challenge him; and
'he will ſeek no better revenge of me than
'to bring him to a court-martial.' 'But,
'replies ſhe, may not the widow be made
'ſure of, by being your friend, as well as if
'ſhe were your wife or your miſtreſs; eſ-
'pecially as conveniency and reſentment
'ſeem to have been your only motives?
'Come, come, Mr. Darking, I do not
'mean to deceive you, my fortune is ſuf-
'ficient to ſerve you without hurting my-
'ſelf; but I want to do it in a manner
'that may be for your credit and intereſt.
'Matthews is your friend, and in the ſe-
'cret, and I have a very good opinion
'both of his underſtanding and honeſty;

'bring

'bring him hither to dinner to-morrow, 'and we ſhall ſee what can be done.'

Darking having taken leave of Mrs. Manby, went directly to Matthews, whom he quite aſtoniſhed with the relation of what had paſt between him and the widow. Various were the conjectures and projects they formed, but both of them concluded they could come to no reſolution till their next viſit to her was over.

Next day Darking and his friend having dined with Mrs. Manby, and the ſervants being all retired, a very intereſting ſilence enſued. Darking thought it would be againſt all decorum for him to break it; Matthews was quite unprepared, and thought it might be improper for him to ſpeak; and the widow, for ſome time, took a malicious pleaſure in obſerving the embaraſſment of them both. At laſt ſhe fairly broke the ice, by aſking Darking if he had formed any ſcheme in which ſhe could aſſiſt him. Upon his anſwering in the negative, 'Then, ſays ſhe, I have, and I ſhall

'be

'be glad of your friend, Mr. Matthews's 'opinion upon it. It is, continued ſhe, in 'vain for me to conceal with what paſſion I 'take a concern in every thing that may af-'fect you, but your honour is as dear to me, 'as either your ſafety or your intereſt, and 'therefore I am far from deſiring you to 'overlook the inſults and injuries you have 'received from Dotterel, but I would 'have you to reſent them as becomes a 'man of ſenſe. I have ſome reaſon to 'think that I am very well with your ad-'miral, and if my intereſt is neceſſary, it 'may be eaſy to procure your diſmiſſion 'from the ſervice. When that is obtain'd, 'and when you have had full ſatisfaction 'of Dotterel, were I to conſult my own 'inclination, you ſhould live like a gentle-'man, upon my fortune, which is ſuffi-'cient for us both. But that, I think, 'would be as little for your credit as for 'mine. My opinion is, that you ſhould 'continue in the life to which you are bred. 'I have here fifteen hundred pounds, which 'I'll lend you upon your bond; that ſum 'will help to get you a ſhip, and to fit her

'out

'out as a privateer: I have no doubt but 'to get my friends to ſubſcribe, ſo that you 'may be completely fitted out, and over 'and above, I will be one of your princi- 'pal owners myſelf; or if you have a mind 'to go into the merchants ſervice, I will 'go as far as five thouſand pounds, to put 'you into buſineſs.'

Notwithſtanding this generous and plauſible declaration, Darking had great difficulties in acquieſcing with it, but they were ſoon conquered by Mrs. Manby and his friend, ſhewing him that her offer went no farther than what was every day practiſed amongſt people in trade, when one perſon had any tolerable good opinion of another. This made Darking ſomewhat eaſy, but Mr. Matthews ſtarted ſome other difficulties which were not ſo eaſily got over. 'Tho', ſaid he, the admiral ſhould be 'ever ſo much your friend, yet as you 'have declared yourſelf in pretty plain 'terms againſt Dotterel, I don't know how 'far, in point of duty, he may be bound 'up from giving you your diſmiſſion be-

'fore

'fore that affair is made an end of. If he 'ſhould accept of your commiſſion, may 'it not be conſtrued into a bad precedent, 'if an inferior officer ſhould be let looſe 'upon his ſuperior when they happen to 'diſagree? Beſides, I underſtand that Mr. 'Darking has actually accuſed Dotterel of 'cowardice, and I am afraid that the 'admiral will not think himſelf at liberty to 'ſtifle a charge that is of ſo great import-'ance to the public.'

'As to the private differences between 'Dotterel and me, replies Darking, my 'only concern is, that I am ſenſible, the 'moment he knows I am to quit the ſervice, 'he will give me no manner of handle to 'proſecute them; and I think my honour 'ſo ſafe in the admiral's hands, that I ought 'to accept of any ſatisfaction he ſhall judge 'to be proper, for the wrongs I have re-'ceived. With regard to my charge of cow-'ardice againſt Dotterel, I am not the ſingle 'perſon in the ſhip who is ready to ſupport it; 'and if it ſhould be brought before a court 'martial, the reſt of the crew, who are fel-'low ſufferers with me on that account,

'would

'would give evidence ſufficient to prove 'it without me; neither can I think that 'my leaving the ſervice incapacitates me 'from being a witneſs, ſhould there be a 'neceſſity, as I imagine there can be none, 'to call upon my evidence.'

Mrs. Manby, and Mr. Matthews, could not oppoſe what Darking had ſaid; and as I now haſten to ſome intereſting ſcenes of this hiſtory, I ſhall not take up my reader's time with ſome leſs material circumſtances, that followed in conſequence of this converſation. It is ſufficient to acquaint him that the admiral readily agreed to Darking's diſmiſſion from the ſervice, that he obliged Dotterel to own himſelf in the wrong, and to aſk him pardon in the moſt public manner; and that, by the aſſiſtance of Mrs. Manby and her friends, in three or four weeks time, he ſaw himſelf maſter of one of the beſt privateers that had ever been fitted out from the Britiſh empire in America.

Though all the iſland took notice of Mrs. Manby's affection for Darking, which, inſtead

ſtead of abating, ſeemed every day to increaſe, yet ſhe conducted it with that frankneſs and unreſerve, which is the characteriſtic of virtue that, ſecure in itſelf, defies the attacks of calumny, without provoking them. Darking, in the meanwhile, by her example, very ſincerely told every thing, from the firſt to the laſt, what had paſſed between them, and he was ſo well believed, that the public, tho' they thought Mrs. Manby's attachment to him was unaccountable, never cenſur'd it as criminal. Their parting, when Darking went upon his cruize, was tender and affecting on both ſides; and Darking ſet out on his voyage, attended by the good wiſhes of the principal perſons of the iſland.

I am unwilling to diſregard my reader's ſurprize, that no mention has all this time been made of Mrs. Manby's curioſity about Darking's birth and parentage. All that is proper to inform him in this place, is, that he frankly owned, his parents dying very poor, when he was ſo young that he did not remember them, he was left to the care of the

the pariſh, that he had a remembrance of being about one Mr. Willis's houſe, in Weſtminſter; who put him 'prentice to a waterman, when he was about ten years old. That, as he was one day plying on the Thames, he had the good fortune to ſave from drowning, a young gentleman of fortune, who was waſhing himſelf in the river; that not liking his buſineſs, he had eloped from his maſter, and was preferred to wait upon the young 'ſquire, whom he had ſaved, to attend him to and from ſchool, in the country, where he picked up what learning he had. That when he was about eighteen or nineteen, thro' the young 'ſquire's intereſt, he entered as a midſhipman, on board a man of war, from which he had riſen to be a lieutenant. This relation, which Tom never varied from, uſed to draw from Mrs. Manby a great many curious queſtions about names and people which Darking never had heard of; and conſequently anſwering them all in the negative, he generally left her in a profound reverie at the breaking up of the converſation.

Darking had been gone about ten days on his cruize when he fell in with a French ſloop

ſloop of war, which had juſt taken an Engliſh merchantman, and had manned it with French, having confined the Engliſh under the hatches of the French ſloop. The French fought ſo obſtinately, that the prize eſcaped, but Darking took the ſloop, and carried her into Port-Royal. Amongſt the other Engliſh who had been taken by the Frenchman, Darking perceived his maſter, the waterman, to whom he had been bound apprentice; but fourteen or fifteen years had wrought ſuch an alteration upon Darking, that the fellow ſeemed to have loſt all idea of him, and Darking took no particular notice of him. Next time, however, that he was by himſelf with Mrs. Manby, he told her, that he now had a good opportunity of confirming what he had ſaid to her of his birth and education, and acquainted her with his having retaken his former maſter. Mrs. Manby ſeemed exceſſively well pleaſed with this accident, and impatient till ſhe could have an opportunity of talking with the fellow; 'That, replies 'Darking, may be eaſily brought about; I 'will, if you pleaſe, ſend for the fellow 'from

'from on board, and you may be by, while 'I engage him to enter himſelf in my ſhip. 'This may be done without ſuſpicion of 'any deſign, and I will take care you 'ſhall have time, and opportunity ſuffi-'cient, to put what queſtions to him you 'pleaſe; as you ſeem to doubt me.'

'My Tom, anſwers ſhe, I am ſo far 'from doubting any part of what you tell 'me, that I tremble for fear, I find it too 'true. But oh! thou little knoweſt how 'much of my future peace depends upon 'my talking with this man; it is, perhaps, 'in his power, to make both you and 'me happy for ever.' Darking had been ſo often entertained with ſuch ſort of paſſionate expreſſions from Mrs. Manby, that he was not much alarmed with this ſpeech, and diſpatching a meſſenger for Will Neal, (that was the waterman's name) Will was with him in leſs than an hour. Being introduced into the room, where Mrs. Manby and the captain were ſitting by themſelves, he ſeemed ſomewhat daſhed, but ſoon recovered, when the captain filling him

him out a half pint glaſs full of Madeira, aſked him, how long he had been at ſea, and whether he was willing to ſerve on board his privateer? with ſeveral like queſtions; to all which, he got ſatisfactory anſwers. The more the captain talked to him, the fellow ſeemed to be the more confuſed; he ſhifted his ſtanding from one foot to another, took ſtolen looks at the captain, who aſked him, whether he had ever ſerved an apprenticeſhip. The fellow ſaid, 'Yes: — where? 'Upon the river Thames, to 'a waterman, pleaſe your honour,' replyed he. — 'Did you ever know one of the 'name of Darking there?' ſaid Mrs. Manby, who grew very impatient. 'Why, 'an't like your ladyſhip,' ſays the fellow, ſcratching his head, 'that is the very thing 'that I have been thinking of all this 'time, though I could not out with it. — 'God bleſs your honour,' turning and bowing to Darking, 'I hope you'll forgive 'all that's paſt, — young 'ſquire Worth-'land paid me for the reſt of your time, 'God bleſs him, and your honour too, — 'your honour knows what I mean; I'll 'tell

'tell your honour more at another time.' 'You muſt tell it all now, replied Darking, and tell it to that lady too.' 'I aſk'd you, ſaid Mrs. Manby, whether you ever knew one of the name of Darking, while you ply'd on the river Thames? and you have given me no anſwer.' Neal knew not what to make of this, but being a very ſhrewd fellow he told her, ſtaring in the captain's face, that he never knew any of the name of Darking. 'How is that?' ſaid Darking, kniting his brow. 'I mean, reply'd the other, excepting your honour, —— and —— and yet —— and I made no lye to your honour, for your name is not Darking neither.' 'You lye, you dog, ſaid Darking, taking him by the throat, and if you don't tell the truth before this lady, I'll be the death of you this inſtant.' 'Let the man alone, interrupts Mrs. Manby, flying to part them; I would not for ten thouſand worlds but hear him out.' The ſailor did not know what to make of this ſcene, but took the moſt prudent part. For upon Mrs. Manby hurrying on the queſtion,

'What

'What is his real name?' he fairly told her, he had never known him by any other name than Darking. 'That, madam, 'ſaid the captain, is, I hope, ſufficient to 'acquit me of any inſincerity towards 'you. —'But, reſumes ſhe, it is not ſuf-'ficient for my quiet. The fellow muſt 'have ſome meaning in what he has ſaid. '—— Fear nothing, honeſt man, and I'll 'give you fifty guineas, if you will ſpeak 'the truth ——.' 'And if he does not, 'adds Darking, I'll have him hanged, for 'he was one of the enemy's crew.' 'God 'almighty bleſs you, noble captain, ſaid 'the ſailor, falling upon his knees, and 'God bleſs my good miſtreſs here, not ſo 'faſt; you may hang me, for that matter, 'for I confeſs, that I was one of the enemy's 'crew; but my own captain, and all my 'meſs-mates can witneſs, that if I had not 'bore a hand, I muſt have been hang'd by 'them, and I was well bang'd, as it was '——.' 'Well, ſaid Darking, we'll let 'that paſs, I believe it was ſo —.' 'Aye, 'it was well for you, maſter, that it was 'ſo, replies the other, and for me too, 'if

'if this lady, God bleſs her, will be but 'as good as her word, and no offence to 'my noble captain.' 'Here is the money,' ſaid Mrs. Manby, throwing the purſe upon the table, 'take it before hand, but don't 'torture me farther, what is Mr. Dark-'ing's real name?' 'Speak the truth,' adds Darking again, 'and I will be the 'making of thee.' 'Now, for my life,' anſwers the other, 'you have put me into 'ſuch a flurry, that I cannot think of your 'real name, but I know where to find it, 'if you will give me leave to go on board 'to my cheſt: Keep your purſe, Madam, 'I won't touch it, till I bring it you. You 'muſt know, that Mr. Willis when 'he was church-warden of our pariſh, 'bound the noble captain here, 'pren-'tice to me; and I had five pounds with 'him, forty ſhillings of which, he ſaid, 'he had raiſed from his aunt's furniture, 'who had died about three years before, 'and who told Mr. Willis, that the boys 'about the ſtreets called him Darking, 'only becauſe he came from that pariſh, 'a thing very common in England. He

'was therefore bound to me under another 'name, though he ſtill went by that of 'Darking, but I gave his indentures up to 'ſquire Worthland, when he paid me. 'Mr. Willis, however, who was a very 'honeſt man, and a very good friend to 'Mrs. Cowper, the captain's aunt, told 'me, that the good old woman had left 'him a bible and a common prayer book, 'which had been your honour's mother's, 'and where your name, and your birth was 'ſet down, and deſired me to be ſure to 'give them, with a bundle of papers, to 'you, when you was out of your time; 'your honour knows how that matter was; 'but they are all in my cheſt, which the 'Frenchman ſuffered me to bring on board 'when I entred with him —.' The captain who was an entire ſtranger to all this, turning round to ſee how Mrs. Manby took it, ſaw her ſunk on her couch, not, indeed, deprived of life, but under ſuch an agitation of ſpirits, as took from her almoſt all power of ſpeech and motion. All ſhe could do, was to make a faint ſign with her hand, and to deſire, with a very weak voice, the ſailor

lor to bring the books immediately: Upon this, Darking hurried Neal away, and rung the bell, for Mrs. Manby's woman to attend her.

Mean while, Darking, who was amazed at what he had ſeen and heard, went into the next room, while Mrs. Manby got more eaſe from a torrent of tears which ſhe ſhed, than from all the officious cares of Mrs. Pinford her waiting woman. At laſt, ſhe recovered ſo well as to order Mrs. Pinford out of the room, and that the captain ſhould again walk in. Darking approached her with fear, concern, doubt, aſtoniſhment, and affection in his countenance. Her tears were not dried up, and all ſhe could do was to claſp his hand in her's, and to pull him to the chair, where without her ſpeaking a word, ſhe ſate a full half hour in that poſture.

From this awful, yet tender, prelude, Darking expected nothing leſs than ſome ſurprizing, if not dreadful, cataſtrophe. He was ſo much loſt in amazement, that

he had neither the will, nor the power to aſk her for an explanation, and his knees ſmote againſt one another, when he heard Neal in the outer entry, puffing and blowing, and aſking for madam, and the noble captain. 'Hold, captain,' ſaid Mrs. Manby, riſing at laſt from her ſeat, 'I have but 'one word to ſay before the man comes 'into the room. Shut the door.' This being performed, 'If the name,' continued ſhe, 'that is written in the bible, is 'Cranwel, you are — my ſon.' She ſpoke the laſt words, in ſo ſoft, yet ſo expreſſive a manner, that they went like lightning through every joint of Darking's body. A cold ſweat broke all over him, his hair ſtiffened, and his eyes ruſhing into tears he ran haſtily to the door, and order'd Neal to give him the books, and wait below till he was called. Then ſhutting the door again, his hand trembled as he open'd the blank leaf of the bible, which he ſcarcely had looked into, when he fell upon his knees, and offered it to Mrs. Manby. His action convinced her of the truth before ſhe ſaw the words, THOMAS CRANWELL, wrote

wrote with her own hand. The ſcene that followed, was too moving for words to deſcribe. 'Oh, my ſon,' ſaid ſhe, bathing his face with tears of joy; 'I knew I could 'not be miſtaken. No ſooner did I ſet 'my eyes upon you, that bleſſed night, 'than I ſaw your father. You had his 'look, his motion, his every feature.—— 'Oh! the remembrance of that dear man, 'comes now ſo ſtrong upon me, that it re-'calls me to all my miſery: Oh! my ſon, 'my ſon, thou little knoweſt what thy mo-'ther has ſuffer'd, but all is now over, I 'ſhall yet be happy; I have found in my 'ſon, all that this world can beſtow.'

During all this extaſy, Darking remain'd on his knees, penetrated with every ſentiment of ſurprize, joy, duty, and gratitude. 'Now, that Neal, ſaid he, has clear'd the 'matter up, I have a faint idea of that ſame 'Mrs. Cooper being my aunt, and I very 'well remember Mr. Willis often ſpeaking 'of her, but I ſhould have loſt all that re-'membrance, had not he awaken'd it, by 'recalling the names and circumſtances to

'my mind. 'Bid him ſtep in,' ſaid Mrs. Manby, 'we will queſtion him farther, 'perhaps, he can give me farther informa-'tion. Here Neal,' ſaid ſhe, ſeeing him enter, and throwing him the purſe, 'here 'is your money, and the captain will take 'care to provide for you, but you muſt 'rub up your memory, as well as you can, 'for there are ſome circumſtances, I want 'yet to be inform'd of. Can you tell me 'nothing of that ſame Mrs. Cooper, who 'you ſay was the captain's aunt? 'I can 'tell you no more of her, reply'd Neal, but 'that ſhe was a very worthy good kind of 'a woman, ſhe was mainly miſſed by the 'poor of the pariſh when ſhe died; for the 'medicines ſhe gave them, though, for that 'matter,' continued Neal, 'ſhe could but ill 'afford them, and yet ſhe made ſhift to live 'in a decent creditable way.' Mrs. Manby then put ſeveral queſtions to Neal about Mrs. Cooper's age, and perſon, which he anſwered ſo much to her ſatisfaction, that ſhe concluded, that Mrs. Cooper was no other than Miſs Cranwell, eldeſt ſiſter to the captain's father. 'And now', ſaid ſhe,

'I

'I ſee the reaſon why all the letters I ever 'wrote to England, either came back un-'opened, or never were anſwered.'

Neal, all this time, was counting the money in the purſe, and finding twenty guineas more than the ſum bargain'd for, he laid them upon the table, when Mrs. Manby bad him keep them, as a preſent from the captain. 'But, friend,' continued ſhe, 'I think you talk'd of ſome papers of 'Mrs. Cooper's, that Mr. Willis gave 'you, where are they?' Neal anſwer'd ingenuouſly, 'that they were tumbled about 'amongſt his other things, and that he 'was in ſuch hurry to bring the two books, 'that he could not find them, but promi-'ſed to look out for them.'

After Neal was gone, the converſation between the mother and the ſon became more particular. Darking's impatience led him to aſk a great many more queſtions, than his mother either could, or would anſwer all at once. She promiſed, however, to give him ſatisfaction by degrees. 'For,'

added ſhe, 'I ſhould be unwilling you 'ſhould receive any impreſſion in prejudice 'of your mother, which muſt be the caſe, 'unleſs you'll hear the whole of her ſtory.' Upon Darking's ſhowing a good deal of impatience for this, they both retired to a ſummer houſe in the garden, and Mrs. Manby giving orders to be deny'd to every body, begun her hiſtory as follows.

The HISTORY *of Mrs.* MANBY.

MY father's name was Panton, and he had by trade acquired a very handſome fortune, when happening to tranſact ſome buſineſs at the houſe of Sir Thomas Baron, he caſt his eyes upon Mrs. Catherine, the knight's ſecond daughter, and after a few days courtſhip, he married her with the approbation of all her friends and family.

This was a match, neither of inclination nor intereſt. My father was a plain honeſt man, and having been regularly bred to trade, his knowledge of life was not very exten-

extenſive. My mother, at the time of her marriage, was about thirty five, and without being a finiſhed beauty, ſhe was tall, genteel, and agreeable in her perſon, reſerved and modeſt in her behaviour, and her converſation diſcovered great knowledge, both in books and manners. Having loſt her mother when ſhe was about twenty, and her elder ſiſter being married, ſhe had managed her father's family for the laſt fourteen or fifteen years of her life, with ſo exemplary an œconomy and prudence, that ſhe was propoſed as a pattern through all the neighbourhood, of thoſe virtues that make the marriage ſtate compleatly happy. Her father, Sir Thomas, though of a very antient family in the county of Devon, had but a ſmall eſtate left him by his father, and it was impoveriſhed beyond all poſſibility of redemption, by the very means he took to relieve it.

He and his forefathers had long ſerved in parliament, but the miniſter, in order to provide for ſome of his more immediate dependents, had perſuaded, or rather con-

ſtrained him, to reſign his intereſt in the election for the borough he repreſented in his favour, and to accept of a place, which, though reckoned to be worth five hundred pounds a year, did not clear quite three hundred pounds. This income, however, ſmall as it was, might, with frugal management, have retrieved his affairs in a great meaſure, had he been permitted to have apply'd it properly. But not to mention that Sir Thomas in his youth, had given too much into the habit of electioneering to give it over in his old age, the member he had put into his borough, happened in one ſeſſion, to accept of two ſeveral employments under the crown, which ſucceſſively vacated his ſeat in parliament, and Sir Thomas was given to underſtand, that the miniſter look'd upon him as the perſon who was to replace the member. Sir Thomas readily undertook this, and the miniſter, to do him juſtice, furniſhed him very readily with what money he demanded, which was about fifteen hundred pounds every time. But this generoſity, had a fatal effect upon the baronet's affairs, for it

being attended by great profeſſions of future kindneſs, Sir Thomas took it in his head to paſs with the miniſter, for a much greater man in the county, than he really was, a thing not hard for him to effect, as his family intereſt had always been very great at all elections, and his family had in former times often repreſented the county.

But Sir Thomas found the ſcene entirely altered, by his own alteration of party; and a hogſhead of wine from him now, could not do ſo much at an election, as a tankard of ale could have done formerly, and, in fact, though he twice return'd the member, yet he was out of pocket both times. He was ſenſible of this, but he durſt not complain to the miniſter, for fear of having his intereſt called in queſtion, though he found it more and more expenſive every day to ſupport it. He was, however, for fifteen or twenty years in hourly expectation of having ſome preferment which would effectually recover his affairs, and pay off his mortgages; and I have heard my mother ſay, that he ſecretly

reſolved, when that was done, to meddle no more in politics. But he little knew, that independency is a bleſſing, that is incompatible with miniſterial favour; and to make ſhort of this part of my ſtory, when my father married Miſs Baron, it was with the greateſt difficulty, that Sir Thomas could ſupport his houſe-keeping with any degree of hoſpitality, his circumſtances were ſo encumbred.

My father was not at all ignorant of this, but the prudence of Mrs. Katherine, reminded him ſo much of thoſe valuable huſwifely qualifications, which were ſo much in vogue when he was a 'prentice, that without being very deeply enamoured with her perſon, he eſpouſed her as a treaſure of virtue far preferable to riches, of which he had more than a ſufficiency.

He was not deceived in his judgment. Never was man bleſs'd with a more faithful, or a more ſenſible woman. He found in her ſweet eaſy and obliging manners, all the defects of his own habits of life ſupplied

plied, and ſhe had the art to make the contraſt between them, ſo agreeable, that his friends never had the full enjoyment of the the one without the other. In ſhort, during the firſt ſixteen or ſeventeen years of his marriage, his affairs proſpered ſo exceedingly, that my father was then worth in money and effects, upwards of fifty thouſand pounds; and my mother's virtues had ſo endeared her to his affections, that from a cold indifferent lover, he became a tender enamour'd Huſband.

But providence had ſo decreed, that the virtues of my parents became their ruin. I ſhall dwell as little as poſſible upon the ſeveral cauſes that contributed to this, nor indeed, am I perfectly inſtructed in all the particulars. It is ſufficient, if I acquaint you, that my grandfather's circumſtances obliged him to apply to my mother, who was then his only child, and ſhe prevailed with her huſband to lend her father a thouſand pounds, upon his perſonal ſecurity. This happened about the year 1718, and my father glad, that he could oblige a wife

wife he loved ſo dearly, never mentioned, or ſo much as thought of the kindneſs he had done her father, with any view of its being returned. This did not proceed from inſenſibility, but affection, for no man had a more quick regard for his own intereſt than my father had in an honeſt way, and my mother's care and concern was equal to his.

The ſum that Sir Thomas had borrowed of his ſon-in-law, did him great ſervice, by enabling him to diſcharge ſome of his moſt clamourous debts, and to come to London, where he took a neat lodging at the court end of the town, and lived at half the expence he had done in the country. This gave inexpreſſible ſatisfaction to my father and mother, whoſe buſineſs confined them to a city life. For ſome time they lived in the moſt uninterrupted harmony, and my birth ſeemed to compleat their happineſs.

But the fatal South-Sea year ſoon reverſed this ſituation, ſo promiſing to our family, and

and to me in particular, as my mother's elder ſiſter having died without iſſue, ſhe was to have ſucceeded to the family eſtate, which was now in a fair way of being retrieved. For my father, without any application, either from his wife, or her father, had paid off ſeveral mortgages, which were eating out the eſtate with very high intereſt, and contented himſelf with taking other ſecurity, and a moderate intereſt, and my grandfather had made a ſhift for ſome years to live upon the income of his poſt. But the fatal calenture of that year ſeized him, and infected my mother, who communicated the contagion to my poor father, though he was naturally very averſe to projects that lay out of the road of his buſineſs. To do juſtice to my grandfather, I believe he acted upon principles of honour and gratitude. He fancy'd himſelf in the ſecrets of the great men, and was unwilling that my father ſhould loſe the opportunity that preſented for leaving me one of the richeſt heireſſes in England. He ſpoke early of it to my mother, who perſuaded my father to venture a little at firſt,

and

and the immenſe riſe of ſtocks that followed, encouraged him to proceed, till his whole fortune was embarked, and both he, and Sir Thomas, were irretrievably ruined, by the ſudden cataſtrophe that follow'd.

This dreadful calamity, which was in common to the once richeſt and wiſeſt in the nation, obliged my grandfather to go over to France, where, being now pretty far advanced in years, he died at Bulloign, while his eſtate fell into the hands of his and my father's creditors, and the place he had enjoy'd was given to a member of parliament.

As to my father, his fate was yet more deplorable. His inexorable creditors having ſtript him of every ſhilling he had in the world, threw him into priſon, where his misfortunes in twelve months, turn'd his brain, and my mother, and I, had the mournful ſatisfaction of ſeeing him die inſenſible of his own, or our miſery.

I was at this time about ſixteen, and had received

received all the education, that boarding ſchools could give me, but utterly incapable of doing any thing to relieve my mother from the burthen of maintaining me. All ſhe had been able to ſave out of the wrecks of my father's fortune, was her paraphernalia and her wearing apparel, which, with a few trinkets, when ſold, amounted to about an hundred pounds. To compleat her calamity, ſhe ſcarcely had a friend, or acquaintance, who was not involved in the ſame ruin, and the expence of maintaining and burying my father, reduced all ſhe had in the world to about fifty pounds, with which, ſhe retired to a village near London, where ſhe rented a ready furniſhed lodging for herſelf and me without any ſervant, from a woman whoſe huſband was a labouring man, at the rate of two ſhillings a week. Notwithſtanding this dreadful reduction of her circumſtances, ſhe enjoyed a wonderful ſerenity of mind, and bent all her cares to principle me with every ſentiment of religion and virtue. She could not, however, bear the thoughts of not making a decent appearance when we went abroad,

abroad, which we ſeldom did, but to church, and in about eighteen months, frugal and careful, as ſhe was, ſhe found ſhe muſt ſoon be reduced to want the meer neceſſaries of life. This miſerable proſpect had a viſible effect upon her looks, but ſhe concealed her diſtreſs from me as much as poſſible. I could, however, eaſily perceive it by the the ſilent tear, which now and then ſtole down her cheek, while I ſat at work. This, I confeſs, awakened, for the firſt time, a ſenſe of my condition within my breaſt, and we often, as it were, caught one another in wiping away the ſympathetic ſorrow which diſtreſs drew from our eyes. Each was unwilling to explain her fears, leaſt ſhe ſhould encreaſe the others grief, and as neither of us had any ſubject of complaint againſt the other, never was there a more tender, a more feeling, or friendly mixture of woe, than that which our calamities inſpired.

I now began to diſcover the want of a proper education, to ſupport and relieve me under diſtreſs. With ſhame I reflected, that

that many young women at my age, not only maintained themſelves, but aſſiſted their parents, without having coſt them the tenth part of what had been beſtowed upon my education, and that I lay a burthen upon a mother, that was unable to maintain herſelf. I could now have willingly exchanged all my accompliſhments of muſic, dancing, and drawing for ſome homely work that could ſupply my dear mother and myſelf with common neceſſaries, but neither ſhe, nor I, knew how to ſet about it, and three weeks rent of our lodging happening to be now due, we were in danger of being turn'd out of doors.

My mother, however, ſtill did her beſt to preſerve the ſerenity of her temper, and never miſſed any opportunity of repairing to the public prayers of the church, to which I generally attended her, when my dreſs was clean and decent enough for me to appear in public. This punctuality at worſhip, drew upon her the obſervation of an elderly, but freſh colour'd vigorous gentleman, who attended the church as duely as ſhe did.

'— Anſwer me that, good madam, be-
'fore I go farther.' 'Why, to be ſure, I
'ſhould, reply'd my mother, ſtaring at her
'viſiting humouriſt.' 'And pray, ma-
'dam, might you not give this half crown
'to the apothecary, though you did not
'care if he was at the D—l next hour —.
'Anſwer me again, was it not for your
'own ſake you gave it? — Undoubtedly.
'Then, I hope, reſumes the gentleman,
'friendſhip was no part of your motive?
'—— neither is it mine, madam, I apply
'to you for my own ſake, I am at this very
'time in the utmoſt pain, and 'tis in your
'power to relieve me, by preſcribing what I
'am to do, that I may not have the per-
'petual torment of ſeeing you unhappy.'

This ſpeech, odd and uncouth as it was, gave us a true inſight to the gentleman's character. My mother's reading had turn'd a good deal upon ſuch kind of ſubjects; ſhe gave an agreeable turn to the argument, and by artfully avoiding all application of it to herſelf, ſhe proved, that the gentleman's ſyſtem was the true foundation,

dation, both of friendſhip and charity, and that both thoſe virtues were no other than modes of complacency to ones own nature.

Mr. Dillman, for that was the gentleman's name, appeared to be equally ſurpriſed, and delighted at my mother's philoſophy. 'Madam, ſaid he, very gallantly, 'the pain I mentioned is redoubled, ſince 'I have had the misfortune of converſing 'with you. I might have borne, with ſome 'tollerable degree of patience, the uneaſi-'neſs you gave me every time I looked in 'your face, before I knew ſo much of 'your worth, becauſe you would have been 'more indifferent to me, but I cannot now 'think of ſtirring out of the room, unleſs 'you comply with my requeſt.' While this ſpeech paſſed, my mother fixed her eyes upon the ground, with apparent ſymptoms of ſhame and confuſion, then raiſing them to me, ſhe gave a deep ſigh, and broke out into tears. Till then, I had been ſilent, but could no longer forbear throwing myſelf at the gentleman's feet, and telling him, I would confeſs all, for I

was

was ſo unexperienced then, that I thought there had been no crime equal to poverty.

The old gentleman, who till then had never noticed me, raiſed me with an affectionate ſmile, and deſired me to proceed. I then, in as few, but as moving, words as I could, gave the gentleman an account of our misfortunes and diſtreſſes. When I had finiſhed; 'Now, madam, ſaid he, turning 'to my mother, who was by this time pret-'ty well recover'd, the worſt of the opera-'tion is over, and I ſhould be glad to know 'how I can have a perfect cure, but it can-'not be ſo, unleſs you let me know what will 'make you perfectly eaſy.' 'I thank God, 'replied ſhe, I have but a few deſires to gra-'tify, but nature craves ſubſiſtence, and I 'have not wherewithal to give it, either to 'myſelf or to my poor child. I will not be 'ſo unjuſt to her, I will not be ſo ungrate-'ful to providence, as to reject your boun-'ty. I cannot bear to owe four weeks 'rent to the poor people of this houſe, 'neither can I bear the proſpect of my 'child, and myſelf, periſhing for want,

'could

'could I be ſecur'd from that apprehenſion, 'I would be eaſy.'

Mr. Dillman, though he was every thing he appeared or profeſſed to be, was, in reality, a complete humouriſt; a character, which he carry'd always as far as was conſiſtent with that ſelf complacency, which my mother had deſcribed, and which, in fact, formed his happineſs, and that of all about him. He aſked my mother the preciſe ſum that ſhe owed her landlady, and how much ſhe thought could maintain us a week, including our room rent. As to the firſt, my mother ſaid that eight or nine ſhillings would defray the whole, and that for four or five weeks paſt, we had lived for about ſix ſhillings a week. And pray, madam, ſaid the gentleman, would that make you eaſy? By deceiving me you deceive yourſelf, therefore let me know what will make you happy. My mother, after ſome pauſe, ruminating a little, replied, that in the whole, ſhe was certain half a guinea a week would leave her nothing farther to wiſh for; ſo thoroughly had ſhe reconciled her deſires

to her circumſtances. Are you ſure of that madam, replied the old gentleman; recollect yourſelf, you are certain that ſum will make you happy? My mother again proteſting that if ſhe was ſure of its being punctually paid, ſhe could have nothing farther to wiſh for. The old gentleman, then laying down eight ſhillings upon the table, and five guineas out of his purſe, told her that was for ten weeks, that ſhe might be ſure of punctual payment; and that all he begged, was, that ſhe would not affront him by our thanks, but accept of his moſt ſincerely. With theſe words, Mr. Dillman left our lodging abruptly, as if he had been afraid of hearing our reply. My mother and I for ſome time ſtar'd at one another, then returning heaven thanks for its bounty, ſhe paid her landlady, who now doubled her civilities; and for ſome weeks we lived with the greateſt enjoyment imaginable, of our unexpected happineſs. We could now afford to ſteal a little abroad, and even to pay and receive viſits from the few friends and acquaintance our misfortunes had left us. I could, however, eaſily perceive

ceive in my mother, before the ten weeks were expired, a conſiderable abatement of that high reliſh for her happineſs, which, at firſt, went even to tranſport. The old gentleman was punctual to the day of payment, he ſeemed overjoyed when he came to our houſe to find my mother in health, and he hoped every thing had anſwered her expectation, and that, if it had not, he inſiſted upon making ſome addition. Tho' my mother anſwered this in the affirmative, and without any apparent ſymptoms of diſcontent, yet the old gentleman's diſcernment was too quick to be impoſed upon by her manner of ſpeaking; for all ſhe did to conceal it indicated ſome reſerve, and he had recourſe to his old arguments and topics, to be reſolved as to the utmoſt extent of her wiſhes. He even applied to me, but I was ſo ignorant of them, that I joined my intreaties with his, that my mother would ſpeak her mind. With the utmoſt difficulty, we brought her rather to hint, than to acknowledge, that a diſh of tolerable good tea had always been the greateſt comfort of her life, and that the

allowance ſhe had was too ſcanty to afford it, ſo often as ſhe wiſhed for, either to herſelf, or a few friends, who viſited her. And are ye ſure madam, reſumed the old gentleman, that nothing but that is wanting to your happineſs? Nothing, ſhe proteſted in the moſt earneſt manner. I ſhall think the better of my ſagacity ever after, ſays the old gentleman, for to deal ingenuouſly with you, I was going to propoſe this very thing; but, hold madam, as I intend to do myſelf the pleaſure, now and then, to drink a diſh of tea with you myſelf, and am very nice, both in my tea and ſugar, I inſiſt upon making your five guineas ſeven, he accordingly laid down ſeven guineas upon the table, and again hurried out of the houſe that he might not be witneſs of the raptures of our gratitude.

In about ten days he paid us a viſit, drank ſome tea which he commended for the beſt he had ever taſted (and indeed it was of the fineſt kind) admired the ſugar, and was charmed to perceive ſuch a ſmile of tranquility upon my mother's countenance, as aſſured him that his deſire was anſwered,

anſwered, he congratulated her upon it, took his leave of her, and renewed his viſit about three weeks after.

My mother received him, to appearance, with the ſame ſerenity as before; but the old gentleman, after ſome obſervation, could perceive a certain embarraſſment in her air. He ſpoke of it to her, and the more ſhe ſtrove to conceal it, it became more viſible. He renewed his old arguments; he taxed her with unkindneſs in giving him pain, when ſhe could ſo eaſily remove it; and after many evaſions and apologies, he found out that her lodgings were very damp, and inconvenient, which, with the perpetual diſagreement between her landlady and her huſband, not only affected her health, but diſturbed her reſt ſo greatly, that her life was actually become a burthen to her. Mr. Dillman ſeemed to wonder at his own ſtupidity, in not having obſerved the unwholſome ſituation of the houſe, and was ſurprized that my mother ſhould make ſuch difficulties in diſcloſing an inconveniency that was ſo

very intollerable, and yet ſo eaſily remedied.

In two days after he returned, and with great glee, begged that my mother and I would ſuffer him to wait upon us to a houſe, where he ſaid, he believed, ſhe could be ſituated with lodgings to her mind. This was a firſt floor, neatly furniſhed, retired, cleanly, and looking into a very handſome garden that belonged to the houſe. My mother ſighed while ſhe ſurveyed this delightful apartment, and hinted to Mr. Dillman, that ſhe ſhould be but too happy could ſhe make it her abode. The bargain was inſtantly ſtruck with the landlady, who was a clergyman's widow; and Mr. Dillman promiſed to pay the difference in rent between that and our laſt lodging, without making any abatement in our allowance. To complete my mother's felicity, ſhe had the uſe of a very well choſen collection of books, which ſtood in a book-caſe in the dining room; a pleaſure ſhe had been long deprived of. All thoſe conveniences gave her ſo agreeable a proſpect, that

that ſhe uttered ſome ejaculations, praying to heaven for moderation, leſt her happineſs ſhould be but too compleat, and ſhe be tempted to forget that ſhe owed it to that providence which had touched the heart of her generous benefactor with pity for her ſufferings.

This rapture was enough to drive Mr. Dillman out of our lodgings, and it was full three weeks before we ſaw him again. The old enquiry was renewed, and by my mother's manner of anſwering the old gentleman's kind demands, whether ſhe wanted any thing that could add to her happineſs, it was eaſy for him to perceive that ſhe was now more embaraſſed than ever. The lodgers over head were ſo noiſy, and dirtied the ſtairs to her apartment.—The ſerving maid was ſo ſaucy, that ſhe rather choſe to ſerve herſelf than deſire her to do any thing; and then — for one to have a firſt floor with nothing that could make a ſuitable appearance in other reſpects, was much more diſagreeable than living ever ſo mean, ſo as one was all of a piece.

The old gentleman inſtead of being nettled, ſeemed to aſſiſt and encourage her obſervations upon the diſagreeable ſituation ſhe was in, 'and madam, continued he, all theſe 'were matters that I could have put you 'in mind of before, but I was, as I am 'now, reſolved to let you chuſe for your-'ſelf, leſt you ſhould impute to my ad-'vice or authority, any part of the in-'conveniency you ſuffer.'

Young and unthinking as I was, I could not help bluſhing at my mother's conduct, and ſuſpecting that our agreeable ſituation would ſoon be at an end. The old gentleman, however, continued the ſame friend as ever; the lodgers in the ſecond pair of ſtairs had warning given; my mother had a maid provided for herſelf, and the free uſe of the kitchen was bargain'd for. But this was not all: upon her hinting that one who was born and bred a gentlewoman of family and faſhion, one who had formerly lived well, and who was aſhamed to make an appearance that could be a diſgrace to her relations, could not poſſibly live upon

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leſs than fifty pounds a year; the old gentleman not only readily approved, and complied with her obſervation, but agreed to pay the rent of her lodgings and her maid's wages beſides. 'And now madam, ſaid 'he, can I flatter myſelf that I have made 'you happy, and that nothing now can 'diſturb your tranquility. Mr. Dillman, 'replied ſhe, gravely, I am under too 'many obligations to you, for me to take 'any thing amiſs you ſay, but, ſir, I ſhould 'be ſorry if you would ever have ſeen any 'thing in my conduct could make you ſuſ-'pect I could be ſo unreaſonable as not to 'be perfectly happy, now that your good-'neſs has put me in a ſituation which a 'gentlewoman need not bluſh to be ſeen 'in.' This ſpeech put the old gentleman into the beſt of humours, yet I could ſee him ſhake his head as he went to the door, after taking leave of us. But I am now to proceed to my own melancholy part of the ſtory.

No mother was more endearing to a daughter than my mother was to me, all

the time of our diſtreſs, and while our circumſtances were juſt above the common wants of nature. But I could perceive a ſenſible alteration of her temper and behaviour towards me in proportion as our affairs mended; and ſoon after ſhe came to the firſt floor, I was made to know my diſtance a little better than I had hitherto been uſed to. I was confined to work in the bed-chamber, nor durſt I, without knocking at the door, upon any account, enter the dining room, where my mother generally ſat reading by the fire; and after we became poſſeſſed of the two pair of ſtairs room, I was obliged to lay there all night, and my mother ſeldom, but at meal-times, called me into her company.

Happening, however, to be as fond of reading as ſhe was, I took care never to be without a book, but the weather proving to be pretty cold, and I not allowed to come near her fire, I ſometimes went down to chat with Mrs. Cranwel, for ſo your grandmother, our landlady, was called. Her ſon, your father, was then about five and twenty,

twenty; he was juſt come from the univerſity, had been lately put in orders, and was made curate of the pariſh. As he lived with his mother he had many opportunities of ſeeing and converſing with me. I was then about eighteen, happy in innocence and ignorance; I often applied to Mr. Cranwell for explaining what I had read. He readily aſſiſted me, and in a few weeks, we never were eaſy but in one anothers company. There was nothing on either ſide but ſincerity and inexperience. —— (Here Mrs. Manby was interrupted for ſome minutes by her tears). The delightful remembrance of the moments I ſpent with that dear man, affects me too much. We conceived firſt an eſteem for one another, which inſenſibly improved into a violent paſſion, and its remains never can be extinguiſhed in my breaſt. My mother was now very often with her friends in London, where ſhe uſed to ſtay two or three days at a time. When ſhe was at home ſhe treated me with an air that was haughty, forbidding, and indifferent, at the ſame time. Our landlady was exceſſively fond of her ſon, and thought ſhe had

ſome reaſon for believing that I was to have a great fortune; in ſhort, every thing contributed to give us opportunities of being together. Why do I dwell upon the idea which the more delightful it was then, is the more painful now. In ſhort, I will not ſay that my mother's neglect was the cauſe of my liſtening to your fathers addreſſes; he had merit to charm the happieſt of our ſex from her ſtation; his conſtancy, his tenderneſs, his ſincerity, won my heart; and we were privately married, having one morning ſtole to town on purpoſe.

Upon our return, Mr. Cranwel made his mother the confident of our ſecret, and by that means ſecured to me the happieſt hours I ever enjoyed. But alas! my happineſs was of no long duration. My mother in law began to queſtion her ſon about my fortune, and wanted him to go to Doctors Commons for a copy of my father's will, ſhe having learned from me, his name and the year of his death, though I took care to conceal from her all other particulars. Intereſt was a matter that neither Mr. Cranwel nor I had

ever

ever mentioned, or, I believe ever thought of, either before, or after, marriage. I had ſenſe and experience, however, to know that my mother in law's motion was not at all unreaſonable; and the thoughts of that filled me with the moſt cruel uneaſineſs. Mr. Cranwel perceived it from the viſible decay of my health, and from every ſymptom of violent grief; he preſt me to know the cauſe, I threw myſelf at his feet, and made him promiſe that he would not reproach me and I would tell him the truth. With tears of dear affection in his eyes, he promiſed he would not, and I knew his ſincerity too well to diſtruſt him. I told him he had married a beggar, and that my mother at that very time was ſubſiſting upon Mr. Dillman's charity. 'And what, replies he, 'am I better? You was by that worthy 'man, provided with an independence, and, 'had not I broken in upon your tranquility, you might have lived in peace and 'ſatisfaction; but I have ruined my dear 'girl, (ſaid he, tenderly embracing me), 'who was ſo generous as to take me to her 'arms though ſhe knew my poverty. But

'my dear Sally, let us not deſpair, let us 'act cautiouſly, but never deceitfully. I 'am afraid what you have told me now, 'may prove diſagreeable to my mother, 'as well as yours; let us therefore wait 'a little longer before we diſcover our mar-'riage. My lord N. ſon to the earl of S. 'and I, have gone through our ſtudies to-'gether ever ſince we firſt went to ſchool. 'He is now of age to go abroad, and, as 'we are extremely intimate, he intends to 'propoſe to his parents that I ſhould attend 'him upon his travels. If this ſcheme, 'which I am in no manner of pain about, 'ſhould ſucceed, my allowance will be very 'handſome; and I am almoſt certain, if 'God ſhall ſpare me to return to England, 'of being well provided for in the church. 'My abſence will not be above two years, 'and you, my dear, may, in the mean 'while, live independent upon either your 'mother or Mr. Dillman. Nothing but 'the regard I have for my dear Sally, could 'tear me from her in this manner, but I 'ſubmit to it, that ſhe may be happy all 'the reſt of her life.'

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Though I was fond of your father to diſtraction, yet the ſame motive that had prevailed with him, prevailed with me; and, for two or three weeks, we continued to live as uſual, Mr. Cranwel ſtill finding means to put off my mother's inquiry about my father's circumſtances, by telling her what was very true, that he died inteſtate, and that my whole fortune depended upon my mother.

Matters were in this ſituation when Mr. Dilman paid a viſit to my mother, and having met me on the ſtairs, carried me into her dining room. She had now been enabled to get a few conveniences, and cloaths for herſelf, and he appeared quite charmed to ſee every thing about her, as he ſaid, ſo neat and clean. She thanked him with an air of great civility, and ſeemed impatient to divert the diſcourſe to general heads. Mr. Dillman, who loved chat, was not averſe to this, and was greatly ſurprized to hear her expreſs herſelf upon all public occurrences, in wit, love, or government, with as much eaſe, propriety and knowlege, as

the firſt rate politician, courtier, or critic in England could have done. The old gentleman then complimented her, upon the vaſt acquirements ſhe had made, ſince he ſaw her laſt, and ſhe own'd, with a ſigh, that ſhe was indebted for it to ſome ladies of faſhion, whom ſhe viſited. I could remark her viſitor fix his eyes earneſtly, when ſhe ſaid this, and I more than gueſſed already what the reſult would be. 'And pray, ma-'dam, ſaid he, may I be ſo bold as to aſk, 'you, who thoſe ladies are, who have ſo 'good intelligence.' 'I believe, Sir, re-'ply'd my mother, with an air that teſti-'fy'd her diſapprobation of his curioſity, 'they have not the honour to be of your 'acquaintance.' Mr. Dillman bow'd, and aſk'd pardon for his rudeneſs, and ſhe ſeem'd to have ſo much complaiſance, as to excuſe it, by turning the converſation upon the weather, 'which, ſhe obſerv'd, had 'been of late ſo uncommonly fine, that ſhe 'had juſt come from dining with Mrs. Dally, 'a widow lady, who lived about three quar-'ters of a mile from our lodging. She 'then enlarged upon Mrs. Dally's agree-

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'able ſituation, who had a pretty neat, little 'box of her own, where ſhe could receive her 'viſitors, and that it was ſo genteely, tho' 'not expenſively, furniſhed, that ſhe need 'not be aſham'd to receive the firſt lady 'in England in it; and then the quiet, 'the retirement, the having every thing 'within one's ſelf, and the frugal, though 'pretty manner, in which Mrs. Dally is 'enabled to do every thing in, by keep-'ing a footman, who ſerves her as gardi-'ner likewiſe, (which, by the bye, ſaves 'money to one) and keeps every thing 'in order about her, and all this, up-'on a bare hundred and twenty pounds 'a year.'

Mr. Dillman did not loſe a ſyllable, nay not an accent, of this ſpeech, which laſted much longer than I have repreſented it; 'Madam, ſaid he, in a moſt reſpectful 'manner, you are a woman of too good 'ſenſe, and too much penetration for me, 'to uſe any introduction, to what I am 'going to ſay. I, therefore tell you plain-'ly, that I look upon all your recital of

'Mrs.

'Mrs. Dally's happineſs, to be no better 'than a reproach upon myſelf, for not plac- 'ing the woman, whom I undertook to 'make happy, in the ſame agreeable ſitu- 'ation ſhe poſſeſſes. Your reproof is juſt, 'and I look upon myſelf, as a pitiful, for- 'did, narrow minded fellow, in imagin- 'ing, that a lady of your refined and ele- 'gant taſte of life, could ever conform 'herſelf to a ſtation, that ſcarcely exceeds, 'as to the comforts and conveniencies of 'living, that of the meaneſt tradeſman's 'wife. I am, however, glad to hear you 'paint your notions of happineſs from a 'third perſon, becauſe I conclude, that 'you have no reſtriction upon your tongue, 'as not being applicable to yourſelf; give 'me leave therefore to aſk you, whether, in 'your opinion, Mrs. Dally is a compleat- 'ly happy woman?'

My mother frankly own'd, ſhe thought ſhe was ——. 'Then, madam, permit 'me to aſk, whether you could not be 'equally happy, were you in her ſitua- 'tion?' 'Yes, reply'd my mother, and

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'I think more ſo, becauſe I believe my 'deſires are much more bounded than 'Mrs. Dally's are, and I have the vanity to 'imagine, that I can find more reſources 'than ſhe can, to make ſolitude leſs irk-'ſome, nay, more agreeable ——.' 'I 'believe ſo too, Madam, ſaid the old gen-'tleman, and you may expect to ſee me in 'two or three days.'

The worthy man was as good as his word; and acquainted my mother, 'that 'Mrs. Dally, being his own tenant, he could 'not be a ſtranger to the ſituation, and 'conveniences of her houſe. But that he 'had another box, which was far prefer-'able to that of Mrs. Dally's, and that 'my mother ſhould have it, or Mrs. Dal-'ly's, as ſhe enclined, becauſe Mrs. Dal-'ly, that very morning, had offered five 'pounds a-year more for it, than that ſhe 'liv'd in.' He added, 'that he was rea-'dy, and willing, to make her eaſy all at 'once. That he would give her the houſe 'rent-free, as well furniſhed as Mrs. Dal-'ly's was; the furniture, however, to be

'his

'his own upon her removal from the 'houſe, and that he would give her an an-'nuity of an hundred and fifty pounds, 'and one year's advance, to enable her to 'do things genteely.'

I ſhall not trouble you with a repetition of my mother's raptures upon this occaſion. They were ſtrong, but ſenſible, and ſhe laid down ſuch a plan of elegant retirement, as infinitely pleaſed Mr. Dillman, and to put the finiſhing hand to his work, he made her a preſent of all Mrs. Cranwell's books, for which he paid at prime coſt.

The old gentleman ſeemed to be particularly fond of me, and to be always pleaſed when I was by while he diſcourſed with my mother, upon the ſubject of her ſettlement. I own, I could ſcarcely refrain from tears, at his noble generoſity, but my ſentiments of gratitude were greatly improv'd, by converſing with your father, who appeared to be as much penetrated as I was, by Mr. Dillman's humanity. My mother,

ther, however, ſeemed greatly alter'd in her way of thinking. She affected to conſider Mr. Dillman, as being under great obligations to her for deigning to accept of his ſettlement; ſhe expreſſed vaſt indifference about it, and threw out hints, that a great many people of the firſt conſideration, would be extremely proud to oblige a woman of her quality and education, in the ſame, and a much handſomer, manner.

Her behaviour to me, had been for ſome time paſt very cold, if not ſhocking, but ſince the laſt acceſſion of her income, ſhe became almoſt unnatural. About two days before ſhe was to remove into her new houſe, ſhe ſent for me to her room, and with great ceremony, deſiring me to ſit down, ſhe acquainted me, 'that ſhe had 'done all ſhe could to give me an educa-'tion, that might enable me to live in the 'world; that I muſt be ſenſible, what a 'burthen I had been to her ſince my fa-'ther's death, whoſe imprudences in life, 'had ruined both her and himſelf, and her 'family. As for him, poor man, conti-

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'nued ſhe, he was of no family. In ſhort, 'I was not to expect ſhe could do any 'more for me, now that I was grown up to 'do for myſelf, and ſhe wiſhed I would 'look out for ſome creditable ſervice. She 'concluded with hinting, that as it could 'be of no manner of advantage for me to 'tell the world, ſhe was my mother, ſo if I 'expected her countenance for the future, I 'was to conceal that circumſtance.'

I received this declaration, without being either ſurprized or diſconcerted. I promiſed to obey her, but I was given to underſtand, I was not to expect to accompany her to her new habitation, which ſhe ſaid, ſhe had choſen for the ſake of retirement and privacy, and therefore, it was highly unreaſonable to imagine, ſhe would be troubled with the company of any, but three or four ladies of family and diſtinction; who, by the bye, ſhe ſaid, ſhe would ſpeak to, to give me a character, if I ſhould be ſo fortunate as to hear of a good place; and in the mean time, added ſhe, here

here is five guineas for you, God bleſs you, and ſend you good luck.

This, ridiculous, as well as unnatural, conduct, I own, made me almoſt deſpiſe her. I took the money, however, and leaving the room with a low curteſy, I immediately acquainted your father, with all that had paſt. He received the news with great compoſure, and checked me for ſome ſevere expreſſions that eſcaped me about my mother. He own'd, however, that he was ſomewhat diſconcerted by what had happened, and he was afraid, that his own mother would diſcover the ſecret of our marriage, which was no longer our intereſt, and I had ſome reaſons for believing, would ſoon not be in our power, to conceal. After a good deal of conſultation, we agreed to wait upon my mother, and throwing ourſelves at her feet, own our marriage and aſk her bleſſing. Accordingly, after dinner, your father, and I, ſign'd a very dutiful letter to her, in which we acknowledged our marriage, and begged leave to wait upon her to receive her bleſſing. We

ſent

ſent this letter up to her room by the foot-man, whom ſhe had engaged, and by and by, the fellow came back with it open in his hand, telling us, his lady, refuſed to keep it, and was gone very ill to bed, leaving orders, that no one ſhould come up to diſturb her.

As Mr. Cranwell, and I, had done our duty, we were not greatly afflicted, at our not being admitted to my mother's preſence, and had the conſolation to know there was no danger in her illneſs, by her ſending to take a place in the ſtage-coach, for her, to go to London that very afternoon. We found ſubject matter, however, to be very ſerious. Old Mrs. Cranwell had hitherto been kept in good humour, only by her hopes of my turning out a fortune for her ſon; for ſhe was ſo poor, that ſhe had nothing to depend upon but her lodgings, and what little her ſon could ſpare from his ſmall ſtipend, which all the perquiſites attending it, did not amount to above forty pounds a year. We found ſome relief, however, by the firſt floor being

ing again let; and we continued to live very happy for about three months.

One morning, a footman, on horſeback, called upon your father, and left a card with the earl of S—'s compliments, deſiring the favour of Mr. Cranwell's company to dinner that very day. Neither he, nor I, had now the ſmalleſt doubt, that his ſon my lord N. had broken the affair to the father, and that he wanted to ſtrike a bargain with Mr. Cranwell, for attending the young nobleman upon his travels. The earl received him with a profuſion of civilities, and dinner being over, after paying him the greateſt compliments upon his virtue, learning, and other abilities, he acquainted him, 'that 'his ſon, who was now of age, had ex-'preſt a great deſire, that he ſhould at-'tend him on his travels. That his ſon 'had been rather too late in his recom-'mendation, becauſe he had already as 'good as agreed with another tutor, who 'had travelled with the young lord —— 'and who being ſtrongly recommended to 'him by the miniſter, he could not decently

'break off with. But Mr. Cranwell, added he, I am afraid, were not that obſtacle in the way, you muſt be under ſome diſadvantage, that cannot ſo well, in this caſe, be ſurmounted. My ſon is to make a very large tour, and it is highly proper for him to have a perſon to attend him, who is quite maſter of the ſeveral European languages.' The young nobleman here interpoſed with ſome vehemence, and brought ſeveral inſtances of perſons, far leſs qualified than Mr. Cranwell was in the modern languages, who had ſucceeded perfectly well with pupils younger than himſelf, and ſeem'd ſo warm in his remonſtrances againſt any other tutor, that the peer, who not only had a great affection for his ſon, but ſome family reaſons for not diſobliging him, made up the matter by promiſing, in the moſt ſolemn manner, that Mr. Cranwell ſhould have the firſt good living that fell in his gift, and that upon his honour, if none fell in ſeven or eight months at fartheſt, he would uſe his utmoſt intereſt, which was very great, to procure him one.

Thoſe

Thoſe promiſes, though confirmed by the ſtrongeſt oaths, would not have ſatiſfy'd the young nobleman, had not your father interpoſed, by declaring, that as his lordſhip had been ſo good, as to engage his honour for his preferment in the church, he choſe it rather than going abroad.

But alas! your father, notwithſtanding his learning and capacity, was a ſtranger to the ways of the world. He did not know, as prov'd afterwards the caſe, that the old lord had no meaning in all his oaths and promiſes, but to part fair with his ſon, and that the latter, when abſent, would ſoon forget him; not to mention that he look'd upon your father, as acting upon motives of intereſt, by reſigning thoſe pretenſions, which he had been at ſo much pains to eſtabliſh. At the end of eight months, your father waited upon the earl, who was ſo far from performing his promiſes, that he upbraided him, for endeavouring to ſtir up diſſenſion between him and his ſon, and deſired to hear no more of him. Upon this mortifying anſwer, he wrote to the young nobleman, who, indeed, ſent him

an anſwer from Paris, but in a very cold ſtile, though ſtuffed with compliments, and ſuch as left him no room to hope any thing from his friendſhip for the future.

Notwithſtanding this diſappointment, we continued to live with all the harmony and happineſs, that love and innocence could beſtow. We heard nothing of my mother, though we lived, in a manner, in the ſame village, but ſhe ſoon experienced a fatal reverſe of fortune. The footman who lived with her, lay under obligations to Mr. Cranwell, and being a ſenſible grateful fellow, he uſed to call ſometimes at our houſe, and from him we learn'd the particulars that follow'd in her life.

Being now in, what may be called, eaſy circumſtances, ſhe ſtudied to have every thing very neat and elegant about her houſe and perſon. While this employment continued, ſhe was tolerably chearful; but as ſhe kept company with only a very few ladies, and they being in circumſtances far above her, ſhe could not afford either to

pay

pay or receive frequent viſits, her time began ſoon to hang heavy upon her hands. Having, however, enough to ſupport that loftineſs which ſhe affected, her ideas were agreeably flattered, and ſhe indulged herſelf in as much, if not more, delicacy of living, than her circumſtances could afford. Mr. Dillman had been all the ſpring in town, and aſſoon as he came to the country, he paid her a viſit. This was about three quarters of a year after ſhe had entered into her new habitation.

He was ſo pleaſed with the cleanlineſs, the neatneſs, and order of every thing in the houſe and gardens, that he viſited every corner, and gave directions for ſome improvements to be made to them, at his own expence. At his next viſit, he apply'd in the old ſtrain to my mother, and hoped, that ſhe was now ſituated, in every reſpect, to her ſatisfaction. She made little reply; and the old gentleman ſeemed to be picqued at her want of confidence. He began to queſtion her particularly. — The houſe? — the gardens? —— the office houſes? —— in

ſhort, every thing underwent his examination; and ſhe frankly own'd, that every thing was to her taſte, and ſhe could wiſh for nothing more compleat. Her allowance had been punctually paid, — ſhe had no complaints of her ſervants, — the weather was fine, — but what did all thoſe enjoyments ſignify, who could not enjoy her natural reſt. — 'Was ſhe in health?' —— was the next queſtion Mr. Dillman put to her, though he never had ſeen her look ſo fat and freſh. At that queſtion, ſhe ſhook her head, and aſk'd him, 'Whether 'he had known any one in health, when 'deprived of natural reſt; that ſuch was 'her caſe, and it gave her ſuch a ſwim-'ming in the head all through the day, 'that ſhe had no enjoyment of herſelf, 'and was quite weary of her life.' Her benefactor, alarmed at this, was for ſending her inſtantly his own phyſician, but ſhe told him with a dejected, melancholy air, that no advice, or phyſician, could do her ſervice. Mr. Dillman then imagining that her mind was oppreſs'd, propoſed ſending to a neighbouring divine, who was an eminent

nent caſuiſt; but ſhe told him, that ſhe thank'd God, ſhe had nothing that diſturb'd her conſcience. This appearing very extraordinary to Mr. Dillman, he grew more impatient than ever; and at laſt my mother, pointing to her neighbour's pea-hen which ſat upon a wall facing her bed-chamber, ſhe acknowledged, that all the miſery of her life, was owing to the noiſe which that pea-hen made; adding, that ſhe would not ſtay another month in the houſe, if Mr. Dillman would make her miſtreſs of all his eſtate, unleſs that curſed pea-hen was removed. 'Madam, madam, ſaid the old gentleman, ſtarting to his feet and ſhaking his head, a pea-hen will follow you wherever you go;' and in ſo ſaying, he made my mother a low bow, and left her no little picqued at his want of breeding.

Next morning, the ſteward of his eſtate came, and acquainted my mother, that his maſter had let her houſe, with the furniture, to another tenant, and that he ex-

pected she would leave it in a fortnight. My mother at first imagined, that she had received this warning, only because Mr. Dillman had provided her an house more to her liking; but what her astonishment, after the steward had paid her her quarterage, he told her, that he had his master's orders to acquaint her, that she was to expect no more money from him, and that he hop'd she would not trouble him upon any account, that he was gone to Bath, and would not so much as receive a letter from her.

In vain were all my mother's intreaties, prayers, nay tears, to know how she had disobliged her generous benefactor; the steward answered her only with a smile of contempt, and after taking an inventory of the furniture, he left the house.

Thus far we learned from the footman, whom she discharged next day, and the next accounts we had of her was, that she was living in the same lodging Mr. Dillman found her in; but in a few days we had

had more melancholy tidings of her. She had, it ſeems, been imprudent enough to anticipate her revenue, for ſome cloaths and other ornaments, and not being able to keep her time of payment, ſhe was arreſted for 40 l. The firſt account we had of this diſaſter, was in a letter ſhe wrote to me from the officer's houſe, full of reflections upon her own miſconduct, and begging I would come to her. I flew with the letter to your father, who ſeem'd to have forgot all that had paſſed, and immediately ran to a friend, who was a houſe-keeper, and conſented to bail her. Another bail being ſoon procured, we all of us ſet out for London, and leaving the two bails at a neighbouring tavern, Mr. Cranwell and I went to the place of my mother's confinement. It is needleſs to repeat all that happened at that interview. In general, all was pardoned and forgot on both ſides; and my mother was agreeably ſurprized, when we informed her that we had brought two friends to bail her. The bail being immediately accepted of, ſhe had her diſcharge, and in

a few days Mr. Cranwell paid off her lodgings, and ſhe came to live with us.

That ſhe might be made as eaſy as poſſible, and to ſave charges, Mr. Cranwell apply'd to her creditor, who conſented to take half of the debt, and to give her a free diſcharge. But that half was more than ſhe could pay, without being obliged to ſell ſome of her things. This was accordingly done to the beſt advantage, and notwithſtanding our narrow circumſtances, we made ſhift to lend her 10 l. which added to what ſhe raiſed otherwiſe, cleared her of all ſhe owed in the world, which was about 20 l. more than the ſum ſhe was arreſted for. She now returned to her former tranquillity, and Mr. Cranwell, from whom, I had, as much as I could, concealed her failings, admired her as a pattern of piety, reſignation, and chearfulneſs under her circumſtances. But a ſudden reverſe of our own ſituation, diſabled us from ſupporting her.

The earl of S—— not contented with diſappointing Mr. Cranwell, ſought to ruin him. He ſpoke of him to the biſhop of the dioceſe, as one who had endeavoured to put variance between him and his ſon, and the biſhop prevailed with the rector, to take a nephew of his wife for a curate, inſtead of Mr. Cranwell. To compleat our miſfortunes, my mother-in-law died about the ſame time, leaving nothing behind her, but the furniture of her houſe, which we were obliged to ſell to defray the arrears due to the landlord. Thoſe calamitous events, obliged us to make intereſt to get my mother into an alms-houſe, erected for gentlewomen of decay'd fortunes; and to ſpeak my own private opinion, ſhe there ended her days, with more ſatisfaction, than ſhe ſpent them. Mr. Cranwell and I were with her in her laſt moments, and ſhe expired with the moſt edifying ſerenity and fortitude, about fifteen months after ſhe went into the hoſpital.

In the mean while, your father and I were greatly diſtreſſed. In a literal ſenſe,

we might be ſaid to have lived upon love. His taſte of letters was refined, pure, and elegant, but his judgment was ſo ſevere, that his learning was of little ſervice, either to himſelf or others, becauſe few could underſtand, and fewer could reliſh, his ſentiments. Add to this, his time had been ſo devoted to ſtudy, and the duties of his function, that he had not made one friend in the world, who could be of ſervice to him in his diſtreſs. London was our only place of refuge, and a bookſeller with whom your father had laid out a little money, was the only perſon we could apply to for relief. But your father being the moſt improper man in the world for laying out ſchemes of life, I was obliged to undertake the diſagreeable office. I prevail'd with him to give me a letter to the bookſeller, ſetting forth his neceſſities, and beſpeaking friendſhip. I carried it, and our friend knowing me, and thinking it was a freſh order for books, received me with great civility, and carried me into his back parlour. The tone of his features, however, as well as of his voice, was ſtrangely altered,

tered, when he had read the letter, and throwing it down, he told me, in the moſt diſguſtful manner, that he could not ſerve Mr. Cranwell, but that his advice would be, for him to advertiſe for the curacy he wanted, and that, if he would ſend him the advertiſement, with ſix ſhillings, he would inſert it three times in a certain daily paper, (of which I afterwards underſtood, he was a proprietor) and that Mr. Cranwell might be heard of at his ſhop.

I accordingly returned next day with the advertiſement and the money, both which I gave him, and he in return, gave me hopes of ſucceſs, if we ſhould continue to repeat the advertiſement. But by this time, I had form'd a plan of my own. I had often heard of authors who got money by their writings, and I ſo well diſplayed Mr. Cranwell's literary abilities to Mr. Title (for that was the bookſeller's name) that he ſeemed to hear me with ſome degree of attention, and told me, he would be glad, if Mr. Cranwell, and I, would, that afternoon, drink a diſh of tea with his wife.

wife. I return'd in raptures to Mr. Cranwell with my meſſage, and communicated to him my ideas, which he ſeemed to receive with a kind of horror. This was owing to the veneration he had conceived for the name of an author. Having himſelf never been converſant but with the beſt, he did not conceive, how eaſy the trade was, and that writing was become a real manufacture to ſerve the public with work of all ſorts, and at all prices. The reading to which I had been accuſtomed, enabled me to explain this matter to him; but he treated all, I ſaid, with great diſdain and indifference I prevailed with him, however, to give Mr. Title a meeting. Being accordingly introduced, we were ſcarcely ſeated, when Mr. Title fell to buſineſs. He mentioned two dictionaries, four hiſtories, about ten novels, and half a dozen of miſcellanies, eſſays in great plenty, and collections innumerable, which, he ſaid, were all HIS, beſides a great number of other works, in which he had a large ſhare. While he was ſpeaking, your father gave viſible ſigns of admiration, and upon Mr. Title's finiſhing

ing the catalogue of HIS pieces, Mr. Cranwell obſerv'd, it ſeldom happened, that heaven indulged one man with ſuch extenſive abilities, and perſeverance, to go thro' ſo many works ———. 'And yet, in-
'terrupts Mr. Title, I am that man, Mr.
'Cranwell; I aſſure you, I am. But, Sir,
'all that is nothing to the works I have
'now in hand. I have a ſyſtem of divi-
'nity, which I have quite finiſhed, and
'another of anatomy, ready to put to
'preſs, when the plates are finiſhed, and,
'Sir, I am juſt now compoſing a body of
'mathematics, which I defy all Europe to
'match. I am, indeed, engaged in one un-
'luckly job, which I cannot finiſh, that
'is, a treatiſe upon Hebrew points, I wiſh
'from my heart, I could finiſh it; per-
'haps, Mr. Cranwell, you can lend me a
'hand.' 'God forbid, Sir, reply'd your
'father, that any thing of mine ſhould
'diſgrace the works of ſo great a man as
'you; my knowledge of the Hebrew is but
'very moderate.' 'I am ſorry for it, ſays
'Mr. Title, for it is a moſt excellent
'work, and I do not know if ever I ſhall
'finiſh

'finiſh it —.' 'Never fear it, ſays the 'other, perſeverance can do a great deal '—.' 'Hang it, replies Title, for that 'matter, I do not value a trifle of pains 'and ſtudy, when I once ſet about a thing; 'I had once a compleat courſe of geogra-'phy, that lay by me for twelve years, 'and I finiſhed it at laſt, and I defy the 'trade to ſhow a better ſelling book, and I 'aſſure you, Mr. Cranwell, every tittle of 'it is my own —.' 'I make not the 'leaſt doubt of that, reſumes the other; 'and I have often thought, that we never 'can have a revival of learning, which is 'now ſo much wanted, until our book-'ſellers and printers, ſhall follow the ex-'amples of the Stephani, the Manucii, the 'Badii, the Frobenii, and a thouſand other 'illuſtrious names, to whom literature owes 'its very being. Nay, the great Eraſmus, 'I am told, help'd to print his own works '——.' 'Meer dunghills! meer dung-'hills! Mr. Cranwell, ſays the other; I 'never heard of a good copy they had in 'their lives, they are not ſo much as nam-'ed about the Bar. I do not believe, their

'trade ever help'd them to ſpend a bottle
'of wine, or eat a bit of fiſh, in their lives;
'for I am ſure, I know all the hands the
'beſt copies have come through, theſe
'hundred years.'

Such was the converſation in which this viſit paſſed, and the remembrance of the occaſion of it, alone, prevented me from enjoying to the full, the ridiculous contraſt between your father and the bookſeller, who talk'd of his authors labours in ſcarce ſo good a light, as a maſter taylor does of that of his journeymen. It was diverting enough to ſee, with what ſurprize and horror your father was ſtruck, when he came to underſtand all this; which he ſoon did, after ſome further diſcourſe with Mr. Title, the utmoſt of whoſe learning, he perceived, amounting to reading Engliſh, and that very badly, and putting his name to a receipt.

The miſtake your father had been in with regard to Title's character, did not proceed from any ſlowneſs of apprehenſion, but from want of opportunity of being better informed. No man had a ſtronger or

a quicker genius; no man was better formed to ſhine in the world than he was; but the ſtrength of his parts, had carried him ſo far into that direction, to which they were applied, that his attention was diverted from every thing elſe. I have often reflected upon this, what I cannot call, a peculiarity of character, becauſe I believe it is ſo with others under his circumſtances. Whether the ſame attention to the objects of the world, would have occaſioned in him the ſame diſregard for books, is what I have often doubted. I am apt to believe not, for two reaſons. The firſt is, becauſe there are few or no purſuits of intereſt, into which ſome degree of learning, is not uſeful; in the next place, the intellectual purſuits give much greater gratification, than the intereſted can, to a fine underſtanding, and it is almoſt impoſſible for ſuch a mind, let its occupation be ever ſo ſordid, not to have a bias towards attaining thoſe ſublimer parts of knowledge, that can beſt gratify the rational faculties. I muſt remark further, that though learning is very ſeldom an embarraſment to buſineſs, yet buſineſs

ſineſs is almoſt always an embarraſment to learning, I mean that kind of learning, to which your father's fortune and inclinations had devoted him.

I throw out theſe obſervations, to prevent you, my dear Tom, from falling into a fooliſh notion that prevails, both in this, and the other ſide of the globe, as if a man of your father's character has any thing in it that is ridiculous. He juſtly reaſoned from the opportunities he had of obſervation, and yet I know, how unjuſt cuſtom is in this reſpect. But to return to my hiſtory.

All Title's art could not bring your father to be one of his authors. He had in his own mind affixed a venerable idea to that name, and he ſaid, that the fear of ſtarving ſhould not prevail with him to proſtitute it. It was in vain I argued with him on that head, and all I could prevail upon him to undertake was to correct ſome of Title's learned works, as he called them, which he did, with ſo much accuracy and judgment, that the printer extolled him to

Mr.

Mr. Title to the ſkies. But he little ſuſpected what perſecution this drew upon him from another quarter; for certain queries he ſometimes affixed to his corrections, raiſed the jealouſies of the authors ſo high, that ſome of the leaſt dependent amongſt them declared, they would not proceed in their work, if their proofs went any more thro' the hands of ſuch a poſitive pragmatical puppy. Notwithſtanding this, the printer, who happened to be a ſagacious man, and not illiterate, ſtood ſo well by your father, that he generally earned about fifteen ſhillings a week, though Mr. Title often complained of the freedom your father took with his works, and ſometimes proteſted he could not finiſh them, if he did not go another way to work.

Though this drudgery was at preſent the only means of our ſubſiſtence, I began to be mortally apprehenſive of its failing us. Your father had been ſeldom or never converſant in any but the fineſt of our modern writers, and this, added to the pleaſure he had of reading the ancients, had

had given him the high veneration he contained for the name of an author. But Mr. Title's works began to cure him ſo effectually of that idea, that he had, in a literal ſenſe, the horrors of the devil upon him, every time he came with a proof, till at laſt, his diſguſt roſe ſo high, that he told me, that he could be no longer acceſſory in impoſing upon the world ſo much traſh under the name of learning. I endeavoured all I could to cure him of this delicacy; but I know not what ſucceſs my remonſtrances might have had, had not Mr. Title's 'prentice one day come to tell us that two clergymen had been enquiring at his maſter's ſhop for the curate that was advertiſed, and that they were waiting for him at a neighbouring coffee-houſe, to which your father immediately repaired.

Our circumſtances were, by this time, ſo reduced, that it was with ſome anxiety I waited for the event of this meeting. In about an hour your father returned, and told me, that when he came into the coffee-room, he found two clergymen over a bowl of

of punch and ſmoaking their pipes. Mr. Title's apprentice having introduced him by his name, one of the clergymen immediately caſting his eye upon your father's legs, and then upon his companion, ſaid, with a kind of glee, 'I believe he will do.' The reaſon of this obſervation was ſoon explained. Having deſired your father to be ſeated, without either of them riſing themſelves or taking the leaſt notice of him other than ſtill looking at his legs; 'And pray, friend,' ſaid the principal, 'how far can you 'walk in a day?' Your father, who had prepared himſelf to give ſome account of his learning, life and converſation, that is, of his head and his heart, inſtead of his legs, was ſhocked at this queſtion. 'Look ye friend,' ſaid the other, obſerving his confuſion, 'the reaſon why I aſk, is, becauſe I have 'two livings, and they are about ten miles 'diſtant from one another, and if you think 'you cannot ſerve them both in a day, you 'won't do for me; I live in Kent, 'tis a 'cheap country, and my wages are twenty-'five pounds a year, and by the bye, I 'have not above twenty-five more clear,

'left of both my livings. But I am going 'Chaplain on board a man of war, and I 'hope for ſome prize money; here, will 'you drink a glaſs of punch? or you 'may have half a pint of gill, if you love 'it better.'

You may eaſily conceive how much your father was ſhocked by this, and a deal of other ſuch ſtuff that paſſed between them. But he had no choice, and he would have prefered the life of a galley-ſlave before his preſent ſituation. In ſhort, the bargain was ſtruck, and in a few days we ſet out for the curacy, which lay about forty-five miles from London, and about a fortnight after our arrival, I was delivered of you.

Notwithſtanding the ſmallneſs of the income, and the hardneſs of the duty, we enjoyed ourſelves here for ſome time with great ſatisfaction. The pariſhioners, notwithſtanding the oddity of their firſt appearance, were in reality, a humane, hoſpitable, ſort of people, and being lodged in the parſonage houſe, we paid nothing for rent, while, as the rector

rector obſerved, we found living very cheap. But alas! the time for my moſt ſevere affliction drew nigh, and you will wonder, my dear Tom, how your poor mother could ſupport life through the miſeries ſhe has ſuffered.

The ſeverity of your father's duty had a fatal effect upon his health, and he ſoon appeared to be in a conſumption. It was ſome time before he could believe it, but the diſeaſe appearing with mortal ſymptoms, he addreſſed himſelf to preparations for his latter end. The pangs that he and I ſuffered on this mournful occaſion are inexpreſſible; you was the only remaining pledge of our loves, and the innocence of your ſmiles, while we careſſed you by turns, led us through every agony of nature, love, deſpair, diſtreſs, and the proſpect of an eternal ſeparation took poſſeſſion of our ſouls, when your father intreated a neighbouring clergyman (here Mrs. Manby was again ſtopped by tears, and ſome even fell from the captain's eyes) to carry us into another room

room, otherwiſe he ſaid he could not die in peace.

Tho' I could have parted with a thouſand lives to ſave his, and though the pangs of ſeparation were worſe to me than death, yet I obeyed, and tore myſelf from him, without even the formality of a laſt embrace, which I knew would only ſerve to heighten our mutual agonies. I even remained in the next room without once attempting to return; I heard the clergyman go through all the laſt ſervices of devotion, in which I moſt fervently joined, and to this alone, I can attribute the tranquillity with which, about an hour after, I heard he was — no more.

What I ſuffered within myſelf upon that melancholy occaſion, convinces me that they underſtand little of human nature who deſcribe weeping, wailing, tearing the hair, beating the breaſt, ſwooning, raving and fainting, and other violent emotions, as the effects of extreme grief. On the contrary, I believe them to be ſo many alleviations of

anguiſh, and to be a kind of temporary reſpites from reflection, which, on all ſuch occaſions, forms, if not the whole, the moſt bitter part of miſery. Mine was a ſteady ſorrow not to be vented in ſighs, or poured out in tears; the violence of my emotions were confined to my own breaſt without breaking forth into any extravagancy of action. Next to the ſolemn ſervice I had juſt heard, I am not ſure whether my affection for you had not the greateſt ſhare of preſerving my life at that time. I know it was owing to it that I refuſed none of the friendly aſſiſtances which the neighbours offered; and, without loſing the leaſt ſpark of affection for the memory of your father, in about a month or ſix weeks time, I applied myſelf ſeriouſly to find out a plan for our future ſubſiſtence. All that I had left me by your father, when his cloaths, books, and all, were ſold, amounted to no more than thirty pounds, including ten pounds of arrears that were yet due for his curacy. My firſt thoughts were to return to London in the ſtage-coach; but when I came to examine my ſituation, I found that I had not a friend in the world

to

to whom I could apply for aſſiſtance, and I knew too much of life, from the ſpecimen I allready had in London, to hope it would be eaſy for me to get into buſineſs there. This conſideration had determined me to endeavour to take the beſt meaſures I could for getting my livelihood in that country, where was a good neighbourhood, and I thought of ſetting up a ſmall millinary trade in the next market town, where I knew your father and I had many friends.

While I was revolving thoſe matters in my mind, I ſaw Mr. Sands, the apothecary who had attended your father in his laſt illneſs, alight at the door of the parſonage houſe, where I ſtill lived, till I could find out a proper lodging. His buſineſs was to tell me that he had juſt come from Juſtice Morgan's houſe, and that, his lady being brought to bed, he would, if I pleaſed, recommend me to be wet-nurſe. He added, that he was very ſure my uſage would be extremely tender, and that I might depend upon having a handſome preſent, beſides the friendſhip of the family

ever after. In the condition I was, I found nothing indelicate in this homely ſcheme; I even thanked Mr. Sands for his friendſhip, and told him I had no objection to his propoſal, excepting my own child, whom I was determined not to part with, though the juſtice would make me maſter of all his eſtate. Mr. Sands ſhook his head at this, and ſaid, he was afraid it would not do, and took his leave. Next day, he return'd, and acquainted me, that the opinion of the phyſicians who attended Mrs. Morgan, was, that it was impoſſible to ſave the life of the child unleſs it had the breaſt, which ſhe could not give it. He added, that the danger was imminent, that no wet nurſe could be had in the neighbourhood, that the child was to inherit the mother's eſtate, which was a large one, and that the juſtice and his family would take it extremely well if I would go to his houſe with my child, and give his ſuck, till a wet-nurſe could be provided. I made no manner of difficulty in doing this, and having milk enough for both, the young heireſs recovered a-pace,

and

and I was treated with the utmoſt regard in the family.

Mrs. Morgan, who knew me, ordered me a room, which, though a little remote from the body of the houſe, had a communication with her own apartment; and the juſtice, for ſeveral mornings, paid me a viſit on pretence of enquiring after his child. He was near ſixty years of age, his face and perſon not diſagreeable, but his general character was that of a proud, overbearing, avaricious man, vindictive in his nature, without bowels, and without gratitude, but immenſely rich. He had been married before, and, by his firſt lady, he had ſeveral children, both ſons and daughters. The eldeſt lived in the family, but rather like a ſervant than a ſon. He had a fine perſon, and a liberal education, but the parſimony, or rather the jealouſy, of his father, who could not deprive him of a ſhilling of his eſtate, had ſtinted him ſo in his pocket, that the young gentleman fell into ſome irregularities, from which, his father's money had relieved him, by the hands of others,

who were employed by the old gentleman for that purpoſe, and gave him aſſignations for the money they had advanced to his ſon. By this, he found that he was under an abſolute dependence upon his father, and was obliged to conform himſelf to his ſtation, which he did with the beſt grace in the world. For not being able to make that figure abroad, which his expectations and birth entitled him to, he lived at home, without minding any thing but his book, and without even mingling in the rural diverſions of the neighbouring gentlemen.

Such was the father and ſuch the ſon; for I had but too good reaſon for remembering both. At firſt, I attributed the juſtice's morning viſits, only to a father's fondneſs for a favourite child; and took little, or no notice, of ſeveral little ſlips his hand made, when he was fondling the child, in my boſom, ſometimes while I was in bed. But his behaviour ſoon convinced me of his vile intentions.

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The ſhock which this knowledge gave me, was new to me, and ſummoned up all my reſolution and prudence. But I was not long without coming to a reſolution, which was, to leave the family immediately, on pretext that my breaſt could not ſupport both infants. Accordingly, as ſoon as I was dreſt, I communicated my intention to Mrs. Morgan, who being paſſionately fond of her child, was alarmed at my intention, and, with great difficulty, prevailed upon me to ſtay a few days, till another nurſe could be procured. I had the precaution, however, to get one of the maids to lye with me in the ſame room; and another nurſe being procured in a few days, I took my leave, and returned to the parſonage houſe, where I was welcome to continue till I could provide another lodging.

While I lived here, in the greateſt privacy, I was one afternoon ſurpriſed by a viſit from young Mr. Morgan. I had ſeveral times ſeen, and ſpoken to him, at his father's houſe, but without any thing particular happening between us; and I had

never conſidered him in any other light, than that of a raw young man, who was doing pennance about his father's houſe, for his former irregularities. But I ſoon diſcovered by his addreſs and converſation, that he knew the world much better than I imagined; and what he told me in ſubſtance, was, that he came to talk to me of love, that he had conceived a moſt violent paſſion for my perſon, and that the greateſt misfortune of his life, was, his not having an opportunity to let me know how unſupportable it was, unleſs he could lead it with me.

I heard this declaration with aſtoniſhment and grief, for I was grieved to think myſelf fallen ſo low as to be liable to ſuch an inſult. Full of this idea, I expreſſed myſelf in ſuch terms, as I thought would leave the young gentleman no hopes of being able to renew his attack, and he ſeemed to hear me with ſome degree of ſatisfaction. 'I 'wiſh, madam,' ſaid he, when I had finiſhed, 'that nothing ſtood in the way of my 'happineſs, but to make you ſenſible of 'the purity of my intentions, which you 'ſeem

'ſeem to diſtruſt; my opportunities of 'ſeeing you will be but ſhort, and ſeldom; 'it will, therefore, give me inexpreſſible 'pleaſure to know whether you have any 'objection to receiving my addreſſes, pro-'vided I can make you ſenſible that my 'views are honourable.' He ſpoke with ſuch an air of reſpect and openneſs, that, unwilling to ſhock him by any rude denial at firſt, I only hinted to him the impoſſibility of complying with his propoſal, without involving us both in ruin, from his father's reſentment. He aſſured me, he had foreſeen and weighed that objection; that, though he had the greateſt regard for his father, yet that his treatment of him, had been inhuman and unjuſt. 'But, con-'tinued he, ſetting that aſide, I never ſhall 'ſwerve from my duty while he does not 'ſeek to puſh it beyond nature and juſtice. 'He had a large fortune with my mother, 'and I am intitled to ſome part of it by 'law; I have been irregular, I own it, but 'I never was criminal, and I have ſeen, nay, 'I may venture to ſay, I have aton'd for 'all my irregularities. I am of age to

'ſettle in life, and I have a right to chuſe 'for myſelf. A right, that neither reli-'gion nor nature will ſuffer me to depart 'from, in compliance with a father's ava-'rice; for I will not diſſemble, that he 'wants, at this very time, to marry me to a 'woman, who, with all her fortune, I muſt 'make unhappy, as ſhe will me, becauſe 'my heart can have no ſhare in the union.'

This declaration embarraſſed me ſtill farther. I urged the violence of his father's temper, the impoſſibility of our ſubſiſting together without his father's countenance, which we never could hope to obtain, and the perſecution we muſt ſuffer from the reſt of his family. He replied, that he had an aunt who would ſupply him with money for our ſubſiſtance; in the mean while, that, being a woman of great fortune and ſpirit, ſhe had often preſſed him about the eſtate he was entitled to when he came of age, but, that he had always declined it: firſt, becauſe he was averſe to breaking intirely with his father; and ſecondly, becauſe he knew that his father had bought up all his debts, which

which amounted to about fifteen hundred pounds, and which he kept over his head as a ſecurity for his good behaviour. That he knew, however, the rents of the eſtate to which he was entitled, and which his father had put into his own pocket, amounted to more than that ſum: and that, if I would but give him leave, he wou'd go immediately and communicate his intentions to his aunt, who he believed would aſſiſt him.

I oppoſed the whole of the young gentleman's ſcheme, for reaſons dictated by my heart alone; but his anſwers to all my objections, in points of intereſt, were ſo ſtrong, and ſo ſincere, that I was, at laſt, obliged to tell him, that my heart never would ſuffer me to agree to his propoſal. The tears with which this declaration was accompanied, and the paſſionate manner in which it was pronounced, convinced him that I was blind to all views of intereſt for myſelf. But he applyed his battery to a more tender conſideration. He touched, but with great delicacy, upon my preſent ſituation; a widow, young, helpleſs, aban-

doned to the world, and an infant at her breaſt! 'I am far, continued he, from 'preſſing you to do any thing that is inde-'cent; let your own judgment preſcribe the 'time that you think ſufficient for teſtifying 'your regard for the memory of your huſ-'band, but let me not depart hopeleſs from 'hence.' I will not diſſemble, that, notwith-ſtanding the freſhneſs of the wound I had received by the death of your father, I was moved by his diſcourſe, tho' it was a motion void of all affection, but for the infant at my breaſt. It came into my mind that you might be expoſed to a thouſand difficulties and miſeries if my obſtinacy ſhould reject the proffer that Heaven had thrown in my way. But that ſentiment had ſcarcely ariſen in my mind, before I checked it as a kind of ſacrilege to the memory of your father. In ſhort, my mind was ſo agitated, that I burſt into a torrent of tears. 'Alas, 'ſir,' ſaid I, when I recovered the power of ſpeaking, 'your generoſity is miſapplied; 'if you love me, you can do it only for 'my perſon; I have nothing to bring along 'with it but want and miſery.' 'You have

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'a heart, madam, replied he, which I could 'prefer to diadems.' 'I wiſh I had, ſir, re- 'plied I—I will not abuſe your generoſity, 'I have no heart for you, or any other 'man; nothing can compel me to marry 'you but want, a mean and mercenary 'motive; leave me, ſir! leave me to my 'ſorrows; all I can give you is eſteem 'and gratitude, I will not wrong you by 'promiſing to give you more.'

The young gentleman was not ſatisfied with this declaration, honeſt and ſincere as it was; nor wou'd he depart until I promiſed to give him a final anſwer, as he called it, in ten days time, having, as he ſaid, reaſons for delaying it until then; upon which he took his leave.

This converſation had been ſo unexpected and intereſting, that I had been thrown into violent agitations, and had ſeveral times quitted the room that I might be more cool for recollecting how I was to behave; and this gave him an opportunity of ſlipping into the drawer, which ſtood before the glaſs,

glaſs, a fine chaſed gold watch, which too fatally I found afterwards belonged to his mother. I took but little notice of this preſent, and locked it up among a few other toys I had, with an intent to return it at his next viſit.

But how was I amazed and terrifyed, when, within two days of the time he had appointed, a conſtable, attended by ſome of Mr. Morgan's ſervants, and a great mob of country people, came into my apartment, and ſhewed me a warrant ſigned by Mr. juſtice Adams, (who was father to the young lady who Mr. Morgan had pitched upon for his ſon's bride) to ſearch for ſtolen goods. I readily gave him my keys, and after ſome rummaging about, they lighted on the fatal preſent young Morgan had given me; and then ſeizing me, the conſtable told me I muſt go along with him a priſoner before the juſtice. I trembled and had almoſt fainted, at thoſe words, which the conſtable and his myrmidons affected to take for ſigns of guilt, and to my great grief I heard him buſy in reporting to the mob, that

that I had ſtole the watch while I was nurſe in the juſtice's family.

You was then, my dear Tom, in your cradle: I had none that could ſupply my place to you, and the inhuman wretches would ſcarce give me time to carry you along with me. I had four miles to walk with you in my arms, and when unable to walk, I was dragged along, ſubject to all the coarſe ſcoffs and taunts of my conductors.

The judge before whom I was carried, was, if poſſible, more brutal than they. He was aſſiſted by another of the commiſſion, and by old Morgan, who, as I underſtood, did not act there as a juſtice, but as my proſecutor. The vulgarity, as well as inhumanity, of their behaviour, was ſuch as may be expected from ſcoundrels, who converſe only with their own cattle, or a lower ſpecies of talking animals. For my own part, my ſurpriſe, hurry, fatigue and confuſion was ſuch, that I had formed no ſcheme. I could juſt conceive the affair was delicate on the part of young Morgan,

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after hearing his father ſwear that he knew the watch, that it had belonged to his firſt wife, and that he verily believed it had been taken out of his houſe. I did not know enough of the law, and was under ſuch agitation, that I did not perceive the lameneſs of this oath, which amounted to no more than a ſtrong preſumption of felony. My judges took my guilt for granted; the heſitation I made in my defence, out of tenderneſs to young Morgan, were conſtrued into proofs of criminality; and my mitimus was directly made to the county jail, which lay at ten miles diſtant.

Mean while, ſome of my moſt ſubſtantial neighbours, at the parſonage houſe, who had a better opinion of me arrived at at Mr. Adams's hall to appear in my behalf. But the watch being produced, and hearing what old Morgan had ſworn, they ſhook their heads, as not liking the affair. One Ramſgate, an honeſt farmer, who had always diſtinguiſhed both your father and me by his friendſhip, nay, his liberality, offered to bail me, and to ſurrender me at my tryal. As Ramſgate was a man, in his way

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of life, greatly reſpected in the country, the court for while pauſed upon his offer, and the juſtices clerk, who had great weight in their deliberations, ſeemed to think it could not be refuſed. Old Morgan was alarmed at this; and ſenſible what the conſequence might be, if I was admitted to bail, he took Ramſgate aſide, and laying before him the high probability of my guilt, at the ſame time expreſſing great concern for my perſon and circumſtances, he adviſed him to have nothing to do in the matter; that it was in his breaſt to make the felony capital or not; and he aſſured him, upon his honour, if he would leave the management of the whole to him, the worſt of my ſentence would be tranſportation. This ſhew of lenity, with the great probability of my guilt, and, above all, the near approach of the aſſizes, which were to begin in five days, prevailed on Ramſgate, who obtained leave for me to remain at a public houſe in the neighbourhood all that night, with the conſtable, upon paying the latter for his trouble.

I received my fate with the more compoſure, as I could not doubt the honour of young Morgan. I gave Ramſgate, who attended me to the public houſe, a ſincere detail of the whole affair, conjuring him to find out the young gentleman, as being the only perſon who could ſerve, or ſave, me. Ramſgate and I were, at this time, in the room by ourſelves, the conſtable being drinking below with a few of our neighbours. He immediately applied to ſome of them, to learn where he could find young Mr. Morgan. All of them agreed they had not ſeen him for theſe eight days, and one of them in particular, ſaid, that the laſt time he ſaw him was a week ago, coming from Mrs. Cranwell's, at the parſonage houſe, about ſeven in the evening.

This laſt circumſtance exactly agreeing with what I told Ramſgate, ſtruck him with a ſtrong conviction of my innocence. He returned, however, to me with a dejected look, and told me he had not heard of the young 'ſquire, but that next day he would do his beſt to find him out. Why do I

dwell

dwell upon minute circumſtances? Next day, I was carried to the priſon in a common cart, attended as before, and on the fourth day of my impriſonment, Ramſgate came to the jail and informed me, with a ſorrowful countenance, that, with his moſt diligent ſearch, he had not been able to find young Morgan. This news drove me into a ſhort fit of deſpair. I had hitherto ſupported myſelf tolerably well under my calamitous circumſtances, in hopes that I would, by young Morgan's evidence, come off, not only with ſafety, but, with honour. So fully was I convinced of this, that I applied to no lawyer of any kind. Ramſgate was the only friend I had truſted, and he was ignorant of the law. I made ſhift, however, to draw out with my own hand, a kind of a ſtate of my caſe, with which he went to a ſort of a ſolicitor who uſed to ply at thoſe courts, and who took my money, promiſing to do mighty things. But when the counſel he feed at my expence, had conſidered my brief, he adviſed me, by no manner of means to give the court much trouble, for my caſe was a very bad one. In ſhort, when

I came to make my defence, the court was ſo ſtrongly prejudiced againſt me, that I was ſcarcely heard, though I told them the whole proceſs of the watch with the utmoſt candor. The mention of young Mr. Morgan's name, without bringing him into court, was conſidered as an aggravation of my crime, and an unanſwerable evidence of my guilt. In ſhort, I was found guilty, and the judge told me I ought to down upon my knees to Mr. Morgan, to whoſe lenity it was owing that I was not hang'd; the whole court ſeemed to join with him, and and even my own counſel, folding up his brief, ſaid, with a ſhake of his head, that he believed I was a very bad woman.

Being returned to priſon, I could ſcarcely bring myſelf to conſider all that had befallen me, and that I was to be tranſported for fourteen years but as a dream. Ramſgate did all he could to conſole me; he adviſed me to put all my little affairs in order, and if poſſible, to diſpoſe of my infant to ſome friend. I knew of none but a ſiſter of your father's, who

who was ſome years older than himſelf, and who having, ſaved ſome ſmall matter in ſervice; kept a ſhop in a market town, about twenty miles from the county town. As ſhe was unmarried, and bore a good character, Ramſgate adviſed me, by all means, to acquaint her of my diſtreſs, and offered himſelf to be the meſſenger. I agreed to this, and the next day the good woman was with me, and never left doing me all the ſervices in her power, till the day of my embarkation for America.

In the mean while, I fell into a dangerous fit of ſickneſs, and all I can recollect, before I was ſent on board, was my taking leave of you, your aunt telling me that it was abſolutely improper that I ſhould ſuckle you any longer. The agonies I felt threw me into a delirium. My condition, it ſeems, could obtain no mitigation of my ſentence, nor did I recover my ſenſes till I found myſelf on a miſerable bed, a hundred leagues at ſea. All the horrors of my fate, by degrees, then opened upon my mind, but all of them were light, compared

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to my fears on your behalf. I found myſelf, however, happy in one reſpect, that I was ſeparated from the wretches who were companions of my miſery, and whoſe horrid execrations I ſometimes overheard. One of them, a woman, far from being ſo abandoned as the reſt, was ſuffered to attend me, as ſhe told me herſelf, and I learned from her, that, not only the indulgence I had met with, but my life, was owing to the ſurgeon of the ſhip, who would ſoon be with me, and let me know all that had happened.

In about an hour, Mr. Marſhal, for that was the ſurgeon's name, paid me a viſit, and, after feeling my pulſe, congratulated me upon my recovery, which, he ſaid, a very few days would complete. He ſpoke this with ſuch humanity in his countenance that I was prepoſſeſſed in his favour; nor was I deceived, for he acted all along the part of a generous diſintereſted friend. He adviſed me, however, to compoſe myſelf for a few days, before he entered into any particulars, of which he had a great variety to tell me;

' but,

'but, continued he, leſt your anxiety 'ſhould make you uneaſy, be of good 'courage; your innocence is fully cleared 'up; your child is ſafe with your ſiſter 'Cranwell, and I learned all this from 'farmer Ramſgate, who came on board us 'in a boat, juſt about two hours before we 'got under ſail, in the Downs; fear no-'thing, continued he, all ſhall be well with 'you, and I will tell you the reſt as ſoon 'as you are in a condition to hear it.'

After this converſation I felt myſelf recover every hour, and, in a day or two, Mr. Marſhal was as good as his word. The ſubſtance of what he had learned from farmer Ramſgate, was as follows, in as few words as I can relate it.

Young Mr. Morgan's aunt, whom he had mentioned to me, lived upon her eſtate on the border of Wales. He never had ſeen her above once or twice, and knew no more of her, than that ſhe diſliked his father, and wanted much to ſee her nephew, (who was to inherit moſt of her eſtate) well

ſettled in the world. As ſhe had often repeated this to him by letter, he thought this was the time to try her, and the very morning of the day after he parted with me, he had taken a poſt chaiſe from the next poſt town, and had made ſuch haſte, that in two days he arrived at her ſeat. It would appear that the very firſt night of his arrival he had opened his mind to her, without the leaſt diſtruſt of her approbation, and had told her, not only his ſituation with his father, but, the progreſs of his courtſhip with me; aſking her whether, if he ſhould marry againſt his father's inclinations, ſhe would ſtand by him in enabling him to maintain his wife, and aſſiſting him in obliging his father to do him juſtice?

The old lady, however, was of a different character than he had imagined. Though ſhe earneſtly wiſhed to ſee her nephew ſettled in the world, yet ſhe could not bear the thoughts of his marrying without a fortune. Suſpecting this to be the caſe, and finding he intended to return in two days at fartheſt, ſhe diſſembled her ſuſpicions ſo

artfully, that the very firſt night ſhe learned all ſhe wanted to know of my perſon and circumſtances; and, amongſt other things, that he had left me his mother's watch as a preſent, with the manner of his doing it. Such an exceſs of confidence could only be attributed to the exceſs of diſſimulation in the old woman, who had, by her careſſes and ſeeming approbation of all he had done, worm'd the whole ſecret out of him. Alarmed at the thoughts of her nephew marrying a beggar, ſhe, that very night, wrote to his father all ſhe had learned of his courtſhip, upbraiding him, at the ſame time, with his barbarous treatment of his ſon, which no doubt was the reaſon why he had entertained ſentiments ſo unworthy his birth and fortune.

She took care to commit this letter to the hands of a truſty ſervant, with orders to go expreſs with it, in all haſte to her brother Morgan. The fellow was but too ſucceſsful in his expedition. The old gentleman having learned the cauſe of his ſon's abſence, wrote her back a very ſubmiſſive, and a

kind of penitential, letter, thanking her for her care of his family, and requeſting her to concur with him in the meaſures he ſhould take for breaking off ſo ſhameful a courtſhip, and which he ſaid muſt be ſomewhat violent. He then let her into the manner he propoſed, aſſuring her that he only meant to break the match, and that he would then make a handſome ſettlement upon his ſon, whether he ſhould marry or not. It ſeems that the old lady approved of all he had propoſed; ſhe requeſted her nephew to allow her a day or two to conſider on the moſt effectual means of ſerving him, and upon the third day after he had been at her houſe, he was arreſted and thrown into priſon, upon an action of five hundred pounds, which one of his creditors, whom his father retained for that very purpoſe, ſent down againſt him. Young Morgan being unwilling this arreſt ſhould take air, kept it as ſecret as poſſible, and not being able to get bail, he remained five weeks priſoner, at the houſe of the bailiff, till I was ſhipped of, and then he was relieved by his aunt.

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This incident, together with the uncommon pains, taken by the parties who had been employed, to detain all the letters he wrote, and keep him in ignorance of all that was paſſing in Kent, had prevented my having the benefit of his evidence. Upon his return to Kent, and finding that I was already embarked, he fell into a kind of a phrenzy, and, as ſoon as he was recovered, he diſcovered the whole truth. But all was to no purpoſe. The old gentleman was applauded by all provident fathers and careful mothers for what he had done, while the young and giddy part of my own ſex, thought it was an inſufferable thing, that young ladies of faſhion and fortune ſhould be rivall'd by a curate's widow, who had nothing to bring to her huſband but a brat and beggary.——But now I return to myſelf.

THE MOTHER: OR, THE HAPPY DISTRESS.

BOOK II.

AFTER we had been about ſix weeks at ſea, we were attack'd and boarded by a Spaniſh Guarda Coſta which rummaged our ſhip, but had no pretext for detaining us. By this time my health was perfectly re-eſtabliſhed, and Mr. Marſhal's credit with the captain, whom he had thoroughly convinced of my innocence, had procured me the liberty

liberty of breathing the free air, on the upper deck, where I was, when we were boarded by the Spaniards. Their captain talked to ours in a very high ſtrain, and threatned to carry the ſhip into Vera Cruz. Notwithſtanding his roughneſs, he ſeemed to have a particular attention for me, and he ordered me to be carried on board his own ſhip. On the ſecond day he was in poſſeſſion of the Engliſh veſſel, he followed me on board, introduced me into his own cabin, where I was elegantly regal'd, and he aſked me in French, with great politeneſs, how he could have the pleaſure of ſerving me.

This adventure, with all the air of piracy it carried, was far from being diſpleaſing to me; I conſidered the ſituation from which I eſcaped as the loweſt to which a mortal being can be reduced, and that I never could appear again amongſt my own countrymen, but with the ſhame of being looked upon as a convicted felon. I reflected, at the ſame time, that religion and

reſolution were not more neceſſary for protecting my virtue amongſt the Spaniards than amongſt the Engliſh; and that no change of climate could affect me for the worſe.

Such were the reflections that gave me a flow of ſpirits, to which I had been long diſuſed, and being careful not to appear diſagreeable to the Spaniard, I perceived that the converſation of a few hours had abſolutely compleated my conqueſt. To do him juſtice, he behaved with great delicacy, and without the leaſt ſymptom of giving me any alarm; at laſt he frankly told me, that the hopes of devoting himſelf to my ſervice, had been his only inducement for detaining the Engliſh ſhip, and, that if I had no objection to remain with him, he would ſuffer her to proceed on her voyage. My anſwer was ſuch as pleaſed him, for though it betrayed no diſlike to his perſon, yet it produced from him a moſt ſolemn proteſtation, that he would employ no other means, to make himſelf happy

happy with me, than tenderneſs and aſſiduity.

My chief care now was to manage ſo as to prevent my Spaniſh lover from coming into the ſecret of my hiſtory, but I ſoon found that I had no reaſon to be alarmed on that head, for he was almoſt continually in my company. I thought it, however, neceſſary to have ſome farther converſation with Mr. Marſhal, on pretence of my health requiring it, and in about an hour I ſaw him enter the cabin where I was. I had no occaſion to inform my lover that it was proper we ſhould be together, for he immediately quitted the cabin, and the good natured ſurgeon told me all that I wanted to know of my own private affairs, and gave me thirty guineas which had been put into his hands by farmer Ramſgate, being the value of the effects I had left in his hands. I then told him that I ſhould expect him back next morning with my trunks and cloaths, that I would trouble him with ſome letters for England, which he would

be ſo good as to ſend off by the firſt opportunity, the Spaniard having conſented the ſhip ſhould proceed on her voyage; he promiſed to be punctual, and took his leave.

After he left me I was again viſited by my Spaniard, who appeared in high ſpirits, and I addreſſed myſelf to writing, and after that to ſleep. Next day, having finiſhed all my letters, I enquired of the cabin boy, who uſually attended me, if any boat had arrived from the Engliſh ſhip, but, to my great ſurprize, I underſtood, by him, that the Engliſh ſhip had been under ſail eight hours, proceeding on her voyage.

Alarmed at this news, I ran to the quarter-deck, where I found all that the boy had ſaid to be true, and in a few minutes I was accoſted by my lover, attended by Mr. Marſhal, from whoſe looks, however, I could draw nothing that was vexatious. In ſhort, I ſoon underſtood that my gallant Spaniard, fearing a return of my indiſpoſition, had detained Mr. Marſhal, for whoſe ſkill and care I profeſſed great eſteem,

teem, to wait upon me, and had ſuffered the Engliſh veſſel to proceed on her voyage.

I was agreeably ſurpriſed with this incident, and far from being chagrin'd for the loſs of my cloaths, it gave me a ſecret pleaſure as I was now at liberty to paſs for a much more conſiderable perſon than they could have made me. I affected, however, to expreſs ſome uneaſineſs on that head, and the Spaniard made a thouſand apologies; for the truth was, that he had deſcried a ſail at a great diſtance, which he miſtook for an Engliſh man of war, and was the occaſion of all his hurry. But to make amends I was ſoon equipped with far richer cloaths than thoſe I had loſt, from ſeveral boxes which were the plunder of an Engliſh veſſel, which he pretended was carrying on a contraband trade.

The richneſs of my dreſs and jewels which were preſented me by the Spaniard, the attendance of Mr. Marſhal, and the deliverance I had met with, made me appear to ſuch

advantage, that my lover's aſſiduities daily increaſed till we landed at Vera Cruz; where I was allotted a magnificent apartment, in his own houſe, and was attended as a perſon of the firſt diſtinction. The prudence and good ſenſe of Mr. Marſhal contributed greatly to the tranquility I then enjoyed; he had been liberally rewarded by my lover, and knowing my ſentiments, he took care to give him ſuch an account of my ſtate of health, as prevented him from being too precipitant in his declarations.

Notwithſtanding all this, my ſituation was far from being deſirable. The deſtitute condition of my child was perpetually in my mind; I thought it baſe to amuſe the generous Spaniard, whom I found I could not love, even on honourable terms, and it was impoſſible to avoid coming to a determination one way or other, in a very ſhort time. Theſe, and a thouſand other conſiderations upon my ſituation, adding every day to my uneaſineſs, ſenſibly impaired my health, and the Spaniard perceived it. He was poſſeſſed of great delicacy,

and ſome vanity, for he miſtook the gratitude and reſpect, with which I always treated him, for love, and ſhewed the utmoſt impatience for the recovery of my health, that he might, as he expreſſed himſelf to Mr. Marſhal, complete my happineſs and his own. My worthy friend Marſhal, took advantage of his diſpoſitions, and being perfectly well acquainted with mine, eaſily procured me a reſpite, when an order from the governor came to Don Lopez (ſo my lover was named) to put to ſea in eight days. Upon this, he took leave of me in a very affectionate, though polite, manner, and I was obliged to diſſemble my hopes of never ſeeing him again.

This, I own, was no handſome return of ſentiments to one who had acted ſo honourable a part as Lopez had done to me; I could not, however, abſolutely accuſe myſelf of ingratitude, becauſe I was ſenſible of his motives. During his abſence, a large Engliſh ſhip was brought in by two Guarda Coſtas, and full of paſſengers, who had liberty given them, upon their parole, to

walk about the city. Mr. Manby, my late husband, was one of them, and the chief owner of the ship. He was upon his return to Jamaica, from England, and was at that time a member of the house of commons. Being well acquainted with the state of affairs between Spain and England, he knew there was not the least shadow of right to justify the seizing and detaining his ship. Like a man of spirit as he was, he entered protests against every step that had been taken by the captors, and talked in such a manner as both alarmed and mortified the governor, who offered to release his ship, provided he did not carry his complaints any further.

In the mean while, being daily more and more apprehensive of my lover's return, I held several serious consultations with Mr. Marshal concerning my deliverance. I now looked on myself, as I really was, a prisoner, though I knew the Spanish government could not justify my detention. Marshal proposed to mention my case to Mr. Manby, whom he knew the governor

would readily oblige; and next morning I received a viſit from that worthy man. I poured out my heart before him; he found me lovely in diſtreſs. He ſeemed uneaſy and thoughtful, but bid me hope the beſt; and deſiring Marſhal to ſup with him that very night, he took his leave.

It had been already agreed upon between Marſhal and me, that I ſhould paſs for a young widow, and that my huſband dying under great misfortunes, I was going to Virginia, in hopes of finding ſome of my huſband's relations there, who might enable me to get my bread. It was no hard matter for Mr. Marſhal to paſs this ſtory upon Mr. Manby, who immediately paid me another viſit, and after that, a third. Every time I ſaw him, I was in terror leſt he ſhould diſcover the truth of my ſtory; and I thought him, every time I ſaw him, more and more perplexed how he ſhould behave. This, at firſt, confirmed my fears, but, by the queſtions he put, and the air of concern which he wore, I found his perplexity aroſe from another cauſe. For ſeeing the

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ſplendid manner in which I lived, he began to ſuſpect a commerce between me and the Spaniard. He even hinted this to Marſhal, who did all he could to diſabuſe him, when luckily Lopez returned to Vera Cruz. He ſeemed to be charmed at the recovery of my health, and complimented me upon the return of my beauty (and indeed my mind was more eaſy than it had been for many months paſt) and preſſed hard for the conſummation of his happineſs, as he now thought that all obſtacles were removed.

I had now a difficult game to manage; Lopez was a man of great conſideration in the place, his ſervants and his ſlaves were alike devoted to his pleaſure; and though I was treated as a princeſs, yet I was kept as a recluſe after his return. To do him juſtice, he gave no ſevere orders, that I know off, to his ſervants; but, being himſelf perpetually in my apartment, put me under an unſurmountable reſtraint, and all my comfort was, that I was ſtill at liberty to converſe with Mr. Marſhal. But then, I reflected that this liberty was

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no ſafeguard to my virtue, that if my anwer ſhould exaſperate the Spaniard, I was abſolutely in his power, and that I could have neither relief nor redreſs ſhould he proceed to extremities. In this reſpect, his love and indifference might be equally fatal to my honour, which revenge, as well as affection, might tempt him to violate.

Theſe, and a thouſand other conſiderations, but, above all, the conſciouſneſs of a virtuous intention, determined me to act with caution and leave the reſt to providence. It was upon this occaſion that I availed myſelf of thoſe excellent doctrines, that had been taught me by your father: I had taſted deep of the cup of affliction, I had been unhappy without meriting, as I thought, to be ſo. Preſumptuous thought! Could my ſhallow capacity comprehend the extent of providence, or trace the hidden ſprings, by which eternal wiſdom operates upon the moral ſyſtem? My misfortunes had already received ſome alleviation by the clearing of my innocence, and the accident of my being taken priſoner far from throw-

throwing me into a worſe ſituation, had freed me from apparent infamy which is ſo painful to the moſt virtuous and moſt reſolute mind, and ſeemed to prepare it for a criſis. This filled me with awful ſentiments; I often begged of heaven to direct me for the beſt; and ſuch was the ſerenity I received from the addreſſes I put up to the throne of grace, that I was armed againſt all events, and found myſelf reſolute enough to encounter every difficulty.

In ſhort, my mind was calm enough to talk with Lopez, who was a true Spaniard, in his own ſtile. Upon the mention of his paſſion, I aſſumed an air of gravity; I affected great ſtatelineſs, and gave him an anſwer ſo formal that it might have become the mouth of any Donna in Madrid. He ſeemed to be ſtruck with awe and admiration at the ſudden change in my manners, but I could read in his eyes a ſelf-complacency as if it had been owing to his converſation and company. I humoured his vanity, and I believe in the two hours converſation I then had with him, he was better pleaſed than if

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he had ſucceeded to the utmoſt of his wiſhes. He preſſed, however, for a determinate anſwer, which, at laſt, I agreed to give him in a fort'night.

Next day, I communicated all that had paſſed between us to Marſhal, who, contrary to his cuſtom, appeared thoughtful, reſerved, and uneaſy. I was greatly alarm'd at this, and aſked him, with trembling and tears, what was the matter; conjuring him, as he was the only friend I had on earth, not to abandon me in a ſituation which I looked upon to be more dreadful, than that, when I lay a convict within the walls of a priſon. There, ſaid I, miſery protected me from outrage, and no attempt could be made to deprive me of that virtue, which is the wretches only conſolation. I then proceeded to repreſent to him, in the moſt lively colours I could, the terrible conſequences of living longer where I was, and conjured him to apply all his intereſt to Mr. Manby, to relieve me from the power of Lopez, which I dreaded worſe than death itſelf.

Marſhal,

Marſhal, who was a Scotſman, heard me with a fooliſh ſmile of indifference, and taking a large pinch of ſnuff, told me, he believed I was very ſafe. I was a good deal nettled at this behaviour, of which, I was far from gueſſing the motives, and he ſuffered me to run on even to reproaches, without giving me any other anſwer, than two or three arch looks, and cramming his noſe moſt furiouſly from his ſnuff-box. At laſt, ſeeing me out of all patience, he told me, I was luckier than I looked for; and, I improved this gleam of hope ſo well that, for all his diſſimulation, which he affected only to ſurprize me more agreeably, I got from him the whole ſecret, which was no other than that Mr. Manby was reſolved, if I was willing, to demand my liberty from the governor, which he was pretty ſure would be granted. But, continued Marſhal, let me aſk you ſeriouſly upon what terms you ſtand with this ſame Lopez. Upon this, I proteſted in the moſt ſolemn manner, to Marſhal, that I had ſincerely told him all that had paſſed between Lo-

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pez and me, and that I was ready to venture even my life itſelf to be rid of my preſent diſagreeable ſituation. Upon this, Marſhal got up with great joy, rubbing his hands and ſhaking his head, and went off as if the time had been too precious even to bid me farewel at parting.

The ſecond day after this converſation happened, as Lopez was entertaining me in his garden with an account of his heroic actions at ſea, one of the governor's gentlemen came and required his immediate attendance at his excellency's houſe, and he parted from me with the utmoſt concern, promiſing to do himſelf the honour of returning to dine with me. Tho' it was no unuſual thing for the governor to ſend for Lopez, yet it immediately ſtruck me, that it was, at this time, in conſequence of Mr. Manby's application for my releaſe. I was confirmed in this, by the arrival of Mr. Marſhal, who told me that I would ſoon be ſent for, to know whether I choſe to ſtay in Vera Cruz, or go to Jamaica with Mr. Manby, who had

had received an order for the full reſtitution of his ſhip, with damages. He adviſed me, inſtantly, to reſolve upon the part I was to act, and in this I loſt no time.

By good fortune I happened to have by me the gown and the linnen I had on when I came into Lopez's ſhip, all clean, and neatly done up. I immediately ran into my apartment, and ſtripping myſelf of all my Spaniard's finery, in a few minutes I returned to Marſhal, in my own cloaths. I thought the good ſoul, at firſt, would have ſtared out his eyes with amazement; but, as if recollecting himſelf, he fell a rubbing his hands and fidging with his ſhoulders, Aye—aye! ſays he, that will do, I commend you, I commend you; you need ſay no more. He had ſcarce finiſhed thoſe ejaculations, and ſtuffed up half an ounce of ſnuff, at two pinches, than I was ſummoned to attend the governor. But it is proper that I ſhould mention what had paſſed at the governor's in the mean time.

Lopez went thither with as aſſured an air as his gravity would ſuffer him to put on. It was not at all diminiſh'd but rather increaſed when he ſaw Mr. Manby along with the governor, and heard him demand my releaſe. For the governor, addreſſing himſelf to Lopez, aſked him whether he had any objection to it, provided I was willing to go. Lopez readily anſwered, he had none, and that I was at liberty to go, if I pleaſed; but that if I did not give my free aſſent, he would protect me from going with the laſt drop of his blood. Both the governor and Mr. Manby ſaid, that all was fair, and they had determined to put it upon that iſſue, when I entered the room. I could obſerve Lopez change countenance when he ſaw the alteration of my dreſs; and the governor, after deſiring me to be ſeated, with great formality and reſpect, opened the occaſion of the trouble he had given me in coming to his houſe, and concluded, by telling me that the alternative of going or ſtaying was in my own breaſt, but that it muſt be immediately decided. And, Don Lopez, continued he, I ſuppoſe

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theſe are your ſentiments likewiſe. Lopez, upon this, aroſe, and in a ſet harangue, vindicated the purity of his own conduct and intentions, and appealed to myſelf, whether any thing had ever paſſed between us but with the greateſt innocence, challenging me, at the ſame time, to ſay whether he had ever behaved otherwiſe to me but as a brother might do to a ſiſter.

I could not help admiring this ſtrain of Spaniſh delicacy, but I did not foreſee that it would prove of ſo much ſervice to me as it afterwards did; and I ſoon found out that it proceeded from ſome inſinuations that Mr. Manby had let drop, as if Don Lopez had a diſhonorable view in detaining me at his houſe. As I came pretty well prepared, I was at no great loſs for an anſwer. I began with the moſt profound, nay, tender, acknowledgments of Don Lopez, his humanity and virtue; and while I was ſpeaking, I could ſee the tears ſtanding in the eyes of that generous Spaniard. This obſervation gave me new ſpirits, and I believe I never ſpoke ſo well before or ſince; but

but after beſtowing the higheſt encomiums upon my lover, I concluded with the natural attachment every one has to their own country; and appealed in my turn to Don Lopez, whether I had ever done or ſaid any thing through which he could accuſe me of injuſtice, by now giving him the anſwer which I had promiſed to give him (though not in ſo public a manner) ſome days hence, and, which was, that I choſe to ſpend my life amongſt my own countrymen.

Mr. Manby, and the other Engliſh gentlemen, who were preſent, looked at Don Lopez with an air of triumph, at the concluſion of my ſpeech; but far from being abaſhed or out of countenance, he roſe, with vaſt ſolemnity, from his ſeat, and taking hold of my hand, Take courage Donna Iſabella, ſaid he, (for ſo I was called there;) before the Engliſh ſhall have their ends of thee, Don Lopez receives you for his wife. Upon ſaying theſe words, he threw a diſdainful look upon our countrymen, and making a profound bow to the governor, he was for leading me off that inſtant, in pro-

proceſſion. Though I was a good deal alarmed at this incident, I had the utmoſt difficulty to ſuppreſs my laughter, at the ſolemn figure my Spaniard made, and was ſomewhat at a loſs in what manner I ſhould decline the great honour he did me. The difference of our religions came into my head; but my lover ſeemed to make a jeſt of that, as if he had been already ſure of my converſion. At laſt, I told him that I was under indiſpenſible obligations not to beſtow my hand in marriage without the conſent of my friends in England, and for the truth of this, I appeal'd to Mr. Marſhal. Marſhal, who ſpoke the Spaniſh perfectly well, and did not want addreſs, immediately took the hint, and after a thouſand profound bows, he moſt humbly deſired to be heard. This being granted, he began a formal harangue, in which, as I afterwards underſtood, he ſpoke of me as a woman of great family, and nearly related to conſiderable perſonages, who had a match for me in view, in the Engliſh Weſt Indies, where my eſtate lay.

Nothing could have been ſo luckily thrown in as this well-tim'd lye was. Every word Marſhal ſpoke relaxed a muſcle in my lover's face, and bowing lower and lower at the end of every ſentence, as Marſhal proceeded, his noſe, by the time the ſpeech was concluded, actually touched the ground, and he fell flat on his face, declaring he would lye at my feet till I had pronounced his pardon for not treating me with the diſtinction due to my birth and quality. By this, I underſtood the purport of Marſhal's ſpeech, and I raiſed my lover with ſo kind a concern, that he could not help crying out in an extaſy, Ah, too generous Donna Iſabella, the ſacrifice you have made to love, is too great, ſince it has made you ſo long conceal what your noble manners and ſentiments ought to have told me. No, Donna Iſabella, Lopez did not require ſuch an exalted proof of your eſteem for him; go, and be happy in the noble lover your family has deſtin'd for your ſpouſe, and my actions, I hope, ſhall one day convince you that you have not been diſgraced in having Don Lopez for your admirer.

However odd and ridiculous this ſpeech and behaviour were, yet there was ſomewhat in it ſo noble, ſo generous, and ſo virtuous, that it filled my eyes with tears, which Lopez looked upon, as proceeding from love. This confirmed him in his former imagination, and again falling at my feet, he poured forth a thouſand tender things, but exhorted me to remember what I owed to my blood and family, and at laſt comforted me with the hopes that he might one day merit my eſteem, and render himſelf not unworthy of my alliance. All this while, the Spaniards ſtood on one end of the room and the Engliſh on the other, but in different attitudes, the former grave and erect, and the latter tittering and cramming their handkerchiefs in their mouths to ſtifle their laughter. I could, however, obſerve Mr. Manby had a very ſerious air, though far unlike the gravity of the Spaniards; and my lover continued bathing my hand with his tears, when the governor and he advanced and parted us from one another.

I own, by this time I was as much diſpoſed to laugh as my countrymen, and I thought Mr. Manby obſerved it with pleaſure, as he was conducting me down ſtairs. The ſhip was to ſail next morning, and it was thought proper, for many reaſons, that I ſhould lay on board that night. As I had not a ſtitch in the world but what was upon my perſon, I had no baggage to encumber me; I inſtantly accepted the propoſal, with ſuch unaffected joy that Mr. Manby obſerved it with a particular air of ſatisfaction. It was with ſome concern, however, that I found Mr. Marſhal was not in our company, but one of the gentlemen told me that he was detained to ſup with Don Lopez, and that he propoſed being on board next morning before our ſhip ſet ſail. I paſſed that night in far more tranquillity than I had done any ſince your father's death, and ſlept ſo ſound that the ſhip was a good way at ſea next morning before I awoke. But what was my ſurprize when the firſt thing I caſt my eyes upon was the large Mahogany cheſt, that contained my cloaths,

when I lived with Don Lopez, with a letter, directed by his hand, incloſing the key, and full of the moſt tender expreſſions of love and eſteem, with ſome gentle reproaches for my having given my friend, Mr. Marſhal, the trouble of carrying my cheſt on board. I immediately went to peruſe the contents of my cheſt, and it was with no ſmall pleaſure I found they conſiſted not only of the cloaths and jewels he preſented me with, but of a large addition to both. You may be ſure this welcome ſight enhanſed my eſteem for the generous Spaniard, but I thought it prudent to conceal the particulars from all but honeſt Marſhal, who ſoon after came into my cabin. After congratulating me upon my eſcape, our converſation fell upon the romantic, yet noble, turn of Lopez; and Marſhal informed me that he had made him a preſent of a hundred moidores for his trouble of attending me in my illneſs, beſides ſome caſks of very rich wines and cordials for my uſe during our voyage to Jamaica.

We landed on that iſland without any accident. Mr. Manby had, through all the voyage, been very careful of my conveniency; and I own, I ſecretly thought, but did not wiſh it, that, after our landing he intended to make ſome particular propoſal to me, but I was deceived. He was then about fifty, a cool, ſolid man, tenacious but not covetous, and very determin'd with very little ſhew of reſolution. He was charitable rather than generous, and ſocial but not communicative. His underſtanding was not only ſound but comprehenſive; and he had read a great deal to very good purpoſe, but it very ſeldom appeared by his converſation. His natural phlegm gave him an air of reſerve that was at firſt very diſguſting, and one muſt have been very intimate with him to find out the many valuable qualities he poſſeſſed. He was honeſt, temperate and tender; his word was ſacred, and though regular, he was far from being formal either in his manners or religion. Such was the worthy man to whom I owe my preſent name; and, have premiſed this character

of him that you may be the leſs ſurpriz-ed at what afterwards happened.

I was obliged to have recourſe to Mr. Marſhal, to provide me a lodging, in the iſland; and Mr. Manby, who came to ſee me next day, approved of my landlord and landlady, who were ſea-faring people, and had ſome dependance upon himſelf. 'But, child, ſaid he, you are young and 'beautiful, the men here are wild and de-'bauched; living is very dear, and it will 'be impoſſible for you to ſubſiſt honeſtly 'upon your beauty. Mr. Marſhal told 'me, you intended to ſettle at Virginia; 'but if you have not very particular reaſons 'for going to that country, and if you have 'nothing but your own induſtry to depend 'upon, I am quite certain you can do better 'here than in Virginia; however, don't let 'me adviſe you to any thing; Marſhal's a 'very honeſt fellow, and your friend; con-'ſult with him, and if you ſhould think 'proper to ſettle here, in any honeſt way of 'buſineſs, I will endeavour to be your 'friend.'

I cannot help owning that I was both pleaſed and piqued at this cold, dry diſcourſe. I was pleaſed to find a friend in Mr. Manby, but not a lover, as I moſt ſincerely dreaded, from Marſhal's diſcourſe, and certain doubtful intimations which eſcaped himſelf, while we were on board; yet I was diſguſted that his ſenſibility of friendſhip for me aroſe no higher than a general civility which he could ſcarcely have avoided paying to a common paſſenger. I thanked him, however, in the beſt manner I could, and told him, very ingenuouſly, my ſtock of money was ſo very ſmall, I was afraid it would be ſo far from enabling me to get into any kind of trade or buſineſs, that it would ſcarcely ſubſiſt me till I could get ſervice, which was all I aimed at. As to Virginia, I had laid aſide all thoughts of ſettling there, being very uncertain whether my friends there were alive, and whether they were either able or willing to aſſiſt me. But, that I ſhould take his advice, and conſult with Mr. Marſhal, in hopes that I ſhould have his friendſhip if I ſhould ſettle

on the iſland. He told me that he would wait upon me in a few days to know the reſult, and took his leave.

Next day, I ſaw Marſhal, to whom I recounted, very minutely, all that had paſſed between Mr. Manby and me. The Scotchman ſeemed a good deal diſappointed at the relation, and d—n'd him for an old covetous ſcoundrel, adviſing me never to ſee him more. I was by no means of Marſhal's opinion, and told him I intended to apply to him as a friend, in whatever way of buſineſs I ſhould ſet up, but the latter was now all the queſtion with me. After long ruminating, at laſt, Marſhal came into my propoſal, which was, to ſell off, as privately as I could, as many of the Spaniard's preſent of cloaths and jewels as I could poſſibly ſpare, and with the money to enter upon whatever way of trade or buſineſs might preſent. Marſhal told me, at the ſame time, there was no place in the world where jewels or cloaths could be more readily, or more advantageouſly turned into ready money, than at Jamaica; and

and that there was no place in the world where ready money could be employed to more profit; and that I need to be in no hurry; for opportunities would not be wanting for my getting into buſineſs. As I had always a great turn to an active life, this proſpect gave me vaſt ſatisfaction; and Marſhal managed my concerns ſo well, that I cleared five hundred pounds for my jewels and cloaths, and reſerved as many of both as might enable a gentlewoman to make a decent appearance.

Mr. Manby did not fail to viſit me as he had promiſed, and he approved mightily of all I propoſed. After a good deal of converſation upon the head, he told me that he believed he had hit on a thing that would anſwer my purpoſe, and in which he could ſerve me: 'I have, continued he, two 'ſiſters, one of them is Mrs. Row, a 'widow, and for many years paſt, has 'kept my houſe, and ſuperintended my 'plantation. She is a woman of excellent 'ſenſe and good nature, and has a ſufficiency for living independent if ſhe has a

'mind. My other ſiſter is older than
'either of us, was never marryed, and is
'now poſſeſſed, in her own right, of a large
'plantation. I am to tell you before-hand
'that ſhe has ſuch an averſion to men, and
'ſuch a love for money, that ſhe never could
'be perſwaded to admit a male overſeer
'into her plantation, and has managed the
'whole of her buſineſs herſelf; but ſhe is
'now grown too old to go through the fa-
'tigue much longer. Though we are
'upon very good terms together, yet ſhe
'is ſo thoroughly governed by intereſt,
'that it will be impoſſible for me to ſuc-
'ceed, in what I have in view for you,
'unleſs I can make it appear to be for her
'advantage. What I propoſe, is, that you
'ſhould purchaſe one fourth part of her
'plantation, which may coſt you about
'fifteen hundred pound, one thouſand of
'which I will lend you, and that you
'ſhould be allowed one hundred a year for
'management, beſides your board and the
'clear profit of your fourth. But, con-
'tinued he, as there will be no ſuch thing
'as making this ſcheme go down with the

'old

'old maid, unleſs you know ſomewhat
'of the buſineſs, I propoſe that you ſhould
'come and live with Mrs. Rowe for four
'or five months, which will be ſufficient
'for your learning all you need to know
'for your entering into the partnerſhip.'

I was overjoyed at this ſcheme, but deferred taking any final reſolution till I ſaw my friend, Marſhal, who entirely approved of it, and began to have a better opinion of Mr. Manby. In ſhort, I got over the ſcruple of living in Mr. Manby's houſe, as his ſiſter was a ſafe-guard to my reputation, and I had the good fortuneto gain the friendſhip of Mrs. Rowe, and the whole family, ſo much, that in four months time I underſtood, as well as any of them, the whole management of a plantation.

Miſs Manby, for ſo ſhe was called, tho' ſhe was paſt ſixty years of age, by the ſecret procurement of her brother, reſorted more frequently to his houſe about this time; and he had the addreſs, without her ſuſpecting the leaſt of the matter, to

bring my affair into diſcourſe. Intereſt was the old maid's governing principle, and ſhe conſequently imagined that it had the ſame aſcendency over all ſhe converſed with, and by Mr. Manby's management, ſhe ſeemed very eager to embrace his propoſal, provided, as ſhe pretended, he could get me to conſent to it. I was accordingly introduced into her company, and my converſation ſatisfied her ſo well of my capacity for the mannagement of a plantation, that the bargain was ſoon ſtruck, articles were drawn, the money paid, and I left Mr. Manby's houſe, and lived as partner and overſeer for a full year in great harmony with the old gentlewoman.

Mr. Manby, all this time, viſited me, but with little or nothing particular paſſing between us excepting matters of intereſt, in which he was ſo exact, that I not only paid him for my four months board in his houſe, but for my paſſage from Vera Cruz to Jamaica, and the intereſt of his thouſand pounds, for which he had my bond.

I often reflected with amazement upon this littleneſs of behaviour, as I thought it, in Mr. Manby; but I am now convinced that it was founded upon motives of ſolid virtue and honour. He was far from being a young man, and therefore he wanted to join eſteem to love in the woman he married. He had long formed to himſelf an idea of a complete wife, and from the character I have already given him, he thought, perhaps, that œconomy, good management and induſtry, were indiſpenſible ingredients in the happineſs of a married ſtate. I am not ſure, my dear Tom, whether he did not carry this idea rather too far, conſidering the large fortune he poſſeſſed. But it had been painfully acquired by him and his anceſtors, and great allowances are to be made for the force of education. I was young, a ſtranger, unprovided, and as the world ſaid handſome; but Mr. Manby, perhaps, thought that the value of beauty and virtue was greatly enhanſed by the more active qualifications I have mentioned.

As to myſelf, though every thing contributed to make me eaſy and happy in life, yet I own I lived under the moſt cruel diſquietudes: I had been at great pains, but to no manner of purpoſe, to get ſome accounts of you or your aunt; I even hired, and paid beforehand, people who were to ſail for England, to go in perſon and enquire after you, but all was in vain. As I had not only changed the place of my deſtination, when I left England, but my name, I was void of all hopes of receiving any letter that could make me more eaſy. A thouſand times I was about embarking for England, but I underſtood from my friend, Marſhal, who was now ſettled in the iſland, that a return from tranſportation before the time was expired, is capital. But this was not all; Mr. Manby, had not, indeed, made me the ſmalleſt propoſition of love or courtſhip, but I thought I could perceive ſomewhat in his manner which indicated that all the ſtrictneſs with which he dealt with me, was in order to qualify me the better for being his wife; an honour which, God knows, I

was

was ſo far from deſiring, that I dreaded the propoſition. On the other hand, I was every day under the moſt dreadful apprehenſions of being covered with ſhame and confuſion by the diſcovery of being a tranſported felon, and could have been glad to have been in a ſtation that would have ſecured me from any reverſe of that kind. Theſe, and a thouſand other melancholy reflections would have diſtracted me, had I not applyed ſo cloſely to buſineſs that the profits ariſing from my partnerſhip, my ſalary and ſome ventures I had for myſelf, enabled me to pay off Mr. Manby's bond; and at the end of about thirty months I looked upon myſelf to be worth upwards of three thouſand pounds, from the plantation, the rum and the ſugars, I had ready to ſhip for England.

My affairs were in this proſperous ſituation; and I was in hopes of being ſoon as far above the cenſure of the world as a competency of fortune could raiſe me; when one night, by the careleſneſs or treachery of ſome of our negroes, our plantation took

took fire, and being entirely conſumed, I found myſelf not worth even a gown to my back, having been able to ſave no more than my papers and books. This loſs made ſuch an impreſſion upon my partner, that though ſhe had twenty thouſand pounds left, ſhe died of grief in three weeks after; leaving her fortune to be equally divided between her ſurviving brother and ſiſter.

This unforeſeen misfortune affected me leſs than could reaſonably have been imagined, conſidering the pains I had taken to acquire what I had loſt. I looked upon myſelf as again beginning the world, but with great advantages of dear-bought experience, which muſt enable me to get a handſome living even in a ſingle ſtate; and I made no doubt, as I had nothing no accuſe myſelf of, that Mr. Manby would continue my friend, and give me the ſame credit as formerly. I again lived with his ſiſter, and every day expected when he would have made ſome propoſal for my being again ſettled in buſineſs. But,

ſo

ſo far from that, he appeared more thoughtful and reſerved than ever, and I was, againſt my inclination, juſt about opening my mind to him, when all the ſchemes and purpoſes of my life were changed.

Colonel Mordaunt, a gentleman of a large eſtate, young, handſome, and with a prodigious ſhare of vivacity, was frequently at Mr. Manby's houſe, and had been my lover, though unknown to me, while I was in buſineſs. He was carried young to England, from whence he had not been returned above two years, and had gone through all the ſcenes of pleaſure belonging to a London life. He did not want addreſs, and having frequent opportunities of entertaining me, he rather inſinuated, than propoſed conditions of my living with him, which I treated with ſo much diſlike, that he made a thouſand apologies, pretending, that he was only ſpeaking in general, without any particular application. Though I received his excuſes with a cold ſilence, yet he ſaw I was nettled, and for ſome days avoided his

his company. At laſt, he one day ſurprized me by myſelf in the garden, and after a thouſand proteſtations of love and eſteem, he told me, he was glad of the misfortunes that had befallen me, if he could be the means of inclining me to accept of his heart, and his hand, in marriage.

I had no reaſon to doubt of his ſincerity: but all mankind being almoſt equally indifferent to me, I received his declaration in a manner that gave him nothing either to hope or fear. Had my heart, at this time, been capable of any paſſion, I could not have behaved with ſo much prudence as I did. My whole ſchemes was to get my own living, if poſſible, in a ſingle life; and I conſidered Mordaunt's declaration as a luckly incident, that might bring me to the knowlege of Mr. Manby's real ſentiments. I therefore gave the Colonel leave to viſit me in a few days after; and when he took his leave, he counſelled me, by all means, to take advice of my friend Mr. Manby, which I promiſed to do.

I accordingly, that very night, related to him all that had paſſed between Mordaunt and me. 'But, Sir, ſaid I, as I 'have very little inclination for marriage, 'and none at all for the Colonel's per-'ſon, if you will give me leave once 'more to treſpaſs upon your good na-'ture, I hope I ſhall not always be un-'fortunate, and that you have no reaſon 'to repent the generoſity you ſhewed me 'before.' Mr. Manby, in anſwer, told me, 'that he underſtood extremely well 'what I meant, and that if he had thought 'it proper to comply with, he would 'have ſaved me the trouble of aſking for 'it. But now, ſaid he, it is more im-'proper than ever, for it may ruin you. 'What objection can you have to Mor-'daunt? He is of your own age and 'complection; his eſtate is large enough 'to entitle him to marry a woman with-'out fortune, and I believe, there is ſcarce-'ly a woman of fortune in this iſland, 'who would refuſe him, if he was to aſk 'her the queſtion.'

This

This anſwer, which was delivered with all the coolneſs imaginable, not only ſurprized, but confounded me. I remained for ſome time ſilent, and at laſt, burſt into a flood of tears, which were followed by ſome pretty ſevere reflections upon my friend's behaviour; and which, as he afterwards told me, gave him more pleaſure than he ever had known before. 'Not, ſaid he, that I had the ſmalleſt 'notion of any ſentiment in my favour, 'but I was overjoy'd to ſee you prefer 'a ſingle life of virtue and induſtry to 'the Colonel. But that very reflection 'again damped my own hopes, as I could 'not flatter myſelf you would be more fa-'vourable to him, than to myſelf. I, 'however, reſolved to put it to a fair 'tryal.' He was as good as his word, and ſurely never was there any courtſhip carried on upon ſuch principles, and with ſuch appearances of intereſt and indifference on both ſides.

When my paſſion was a little abated, I preſſed Mr. Manby with all the ſoftneſs

I was miſtreſs of, to grant my requeſt of putting me into buſineſs, or if that was too much, to be ſo much my friend, as to recommend me to the ſame ſtation I had with his ſiſter. But all my rhetoric was ineffectual. I even beg'd pardon for the injurious expreſſions I had dropped, and promiſed to be always directed by his advice. All was to no purpoſe. He had recourſe to his former argument, that he had too great a value for me, to contribute to any ſcheme that might induce me to baulk the Colonel's addreſſes. 'But, 'continued he, with a ſerious tone, what 'are your objections? Let me hear them, 'and if you have any thing that is par-'ticular to offer, I will aſſiſt you, as you 'deſire, coſt me what it will. —— Have 'you any objection to his perſon?' —— 'None, replied I; the perſons of all men 'are alike to me.' —— 'Have you any 'to his fortune?' —— 'None; it is far 'above what I can expect.' —— 'Any 'to his converſation?' —— 'None; it 'has always been agreeable.' —— 'Any 'to his morals?' —— 'None; I believe 'him

'him as virtuous as any young gentleman 'of his age and fortune. But, Sir, con-'tinued I, if you will give me leave, I 'will open my mind to you with great 'ſincerity; and if you have patience to 'hear me out, I will be directed by your 'judgment.' This requeſt being anſwer-ed with a bow of aſſent, I went on as follows.

'Love, or intereſt, of ſome kind or 'other, are the only motives that can de-'termine one to marry; as to love for 'the Colonel on my ſide, there neither is, 'or can be any, and therefore I think it 'would be ungenerous for me to give my 'hand, where I cannot beſtow my heart. 'With regard to intereſt, it is a word of 'ſuch an extenſive meaning, that it has 'no bounds but what is preſcribed to it 'by the heart and inclination. A woman 'may be poor with millions, and rich 'with a trifle. Were my ruling paſſion 'riches, the Colonel's fortune would be 'ſo far from ſtinting it, that it would en-'large it. I am far from deſpiſing riches

'when

'when they ſerve to ſecure independency,
'and when heaven bleſſes the poſſeſſor
'with a heart to uſe them. In a free
'country, I look upon all to be indepen-
'dent, who can earn their own living; it
'is that independency I ſpeak of, and it
'is that alone, be it ever ſo humble, can
'make me happy. While I ſay this, I
'think I know my own heart; I ſpeak
'not from any averſion I have to the Co-
'lonel, but from my indifferency for all
'mankind. But ſetting aſide theſe gene-
'ral conſiderations, which, however, are
'deciſive with me, I own, though I have
'no averſion, I have ſome objection, to
'the colonel. He offers to marry me for
'love, he is young, he is ſprightly; and
'has a fortune to gratify his inclinations;
'it is impoſſible I ſhould continue always
'the ſame in his eyes, and if I do not, I
'tremble to think what may be the con-
'ſequence: it is too much for a think-
'ing woman to hazard, I mean, if ſhe
'can poſſibly avoid it; in ſhort, Sir, if
'I embrace the Colonel's propoſal, I do
'it only to avoid a greater evil, that of

'living

'living poor and deſtitute, and conſe-
'quently, having my virtue expoſed to
'temptation, to which my neceſſities may
'either make it yield, or make me wiſh
'I never had a being.'

I could ſee Mr. Manby deeply touch-
ed with what I had ſaid. After walk-
ing about for ſome time, without ſpeak-
ing a word, he aſked me, 'If my indif-
'ference was equal for all mankind?' —
I anſwered, 'that it was with regard to
'their perſons, but that I knew great diſ-
'tinctions ought to be made with regard
'to their qualities, and other circumſtan-
'ces.' 'But how?' ſaid he haſtily. 'Be-
'cauſe, replied I, ſetting all conſiderations
'aſide, a woman may be far leſs unhap-
'py with a man of ſenſe, a man of tem-
'per, a man of virtue.' —— 'But ſup-
'poſing their years.' —— 'I have already,
'interrupted I, ſet all perſonal conſidera-
'tions aſide.' 'Then you think, ma-
'dam, anſwered he, after a long pauſe,
'there are men in the world, with whom
'you could live happily.' —— 'I did
'not

'not ſay ſo, but I think there are men 'in the world, with whom I might live 'leſs unhappy than I could with others.' —— 'Why can't you ſay, more hap-'pily?' rejoins he. —— 'Becauſe the 'other expreſſion was uppermoſt on my 'tongue,' concluded I. —— Mr. Manby made no reply to this, but ſeemed more immerſed in thought than ever. At laſt, with a faultering accent, he aſked me, 'How I ſhould like a man of his age and 'diſpoſition.'

From the train of our converſation, and certain other indications I obſerved, I own, that this was the very queſtion I expected. 'Will you promiſe, Sir, upon 'your honour, not to take it amiſs, if I 'tell you my thoughts ſincerely,—I do,— 'then I own, I think your behaviour to 'me, in the trifling favour I have aſked (for 'I know it to be trifling to you) is a ſpe-'cimen of your temper, which I greatly 'diſlike; it is incompatible with happineſs 'in a marriage ſtate, and I have ſo much 'friendſhip for you, that I bluſh more for

'your refusal, than I am touched at my own 'disappointment.' — 'But upon your 'own system of indifference, resumes he, 'have you any other particular objection? '—— 'None; but what I have in com- 'mon to all mankind.' Then said he, 'I have but one question more to put; 'supposing the exception you have men- 'tioned to be removed to your own sa- 'tisfaction, could you take me for a 'Husband?' 'Mr. Manby,' said I, changing my tone, 'that question is not 'for a gentleman to put; nothing but the distress, to which you think I am 'reduced, could have encouraged you to 'think, I would declare my sentiments 'on that head, before I know yours.' I flung out these words with so much sharp- ness, that I thought they would, either have disconcerted or disobliged him. But I found he had studied his part to great perfection. After asking my pardon, with a forced smile, 'Perhaps, said he, I can- 'not explain myself first, without ex- 'plaining too much.' I really was ig- norant of what he meant by these words,

but he ſoon cleared it up. 'Suppoſing, ſaid 'he, that I cannot clear myſelf of the 'meanneſs you accuſe me with, without 'betraying the moſt violent paſſion.' — He look'd full in my face, when he finiſhed this ſentence, and finding I made him no reply, — 'Alas! madam,' ſaid he, taking one of my hands, 'what I would 'have you to ſuppoſe is no ſuppoſition, 'but I know too much of woman-kind, 'and of you particularly, to preſs the 'queſtion put to you farther, ſince you 'have given no negative to my hopes. 'Yes, madam, I have loved you diſtract-'edly, ſince the firſt moment I ſaw you, 'yet I could have died ſooner than have 'revealed my paſſion, had I not received 'the fulleſt proof from your conduct, 'that your nature and principles have form-'ed you, to make me happy. You ſay 'you have no love to beſtow, but I know 'you have eſteem and friendſhip, and 'if a life devoted on my part, to love 'and reſpect you, can merit them, they 'are mine from this moment.'

I have been the more particular in relating this courtſhip, that even in your own breaſt, you may acquit me from the charge of my thoughts ever ſtraying from your dear father, and yet even then, I was ſo far from being determined, that all Mr. Manby's art and perſuaſion, could not pervail upon me to give him a poſitive anſwer, till next day.

When I retired to my room, after he was gone, heaven knows what a ſtruggle I underwent. Tears, at laſt, gave me ſome relief, and I was calm enough to ſurvey my own ſituation. I found daily inſtances of felons removing themſelves from one of our colonies to another, and therefore it was next to impoſſible, that my true hiſtory ſhould be much longer concealed. I trembled when I conſidered to what a dreadful ſituation this muſt reduce me. I reflected at the ſame time, upon the ſolid, yet generous, principles, upon which Mr. Manby had proceeded; that he was neither of an age, character or diſpoſition, to treat a woman ill whom he

he married equally from eſteem and love; I look'd upon the trial he had experienced of my conduct and real ſentiments, to be the beſt ſecurity I could have of his remaining in the ſame ſentiments; but above all, I did not doubt of bringing him, by my aſſiduities, and obliging behaviour, to be a father to my dear infant, as ſoon as he ſhould know I had one. Theſe, and many other conſiderations of prudence, as well as intereſt, determined me to give my hand to Mr. Manby. But the ſurprize, the agitation I was in, and the real confuſion I felt in determining myſelf, made me for that time, quite overlook the moſt material conſideration of all.

I met Mr. Manby next day, in the very ſummer houſe where we now are, and in ſhort, I conſented to be his. It was eaſy to ſee by his behaviour upon this occaſion, that his reſerve had only reſtrained his paſſion, to render it the more impetuous, when it broke its bounds. His raptures were exceſſive; and his preſents

and ſettlements ſo generous, that he ſeemed to have ſunk his natural character of caution and reſerve, into that of an impatient and extravagant lover. It was with difficulty I prevailed with him to defer our nuptials for three days, that I might get things in order, and he was ſo conſtantly with me all that time, that I had very little leiſure for recollection upon my paſt and preſent ſtate of life. But the nearer I drew to the time, my trepidation encreaſed; and the very morning of the day fixt for the ceremony, I roſe from bed with a firm intention to break off the match. This was no ſudden caprice ariſing from inconſtancy or diſlike, but the reſult of ſerious deliberation upon that material conſideration, which I had hitherto overlook'd.

I reflected upon the motives that had determined Mr. Manby to make me his wife, and likewiſe upon his character, and found nothing, either in the one or the other, but what was both wiſe and honourable. But then I conſidered that affection and

eſteem

eſteem can be preſerved, only upon the ſame principles by which they were acquired. —I was going to trepan, in a mean diſingenuous manner, the man with whom I was to ſpend my life; the man, whoſe principal motive for ſettling his affection upon me was, that he believed me to be virtuous. — Could I deceive this man, and truſt to the aſcendant I might acquire over him, for pardoning the cheat I was going to put upon him, by keeping him in ignorance of my true ſtory, till he ſhould become acquainted with it by accident, as he certainly, ſooner or later would be. — What a riſk did I run! — But, ſetling prudential conſideration aſide, could I in honour deal ſo by the man, who was dealing ſo honourably by me? — The more I reaſon'd in this manner, the more determined I grew to break off the match; and not to detain you with a long train of ſucceeding reflections, when Mr. Manby came to viſit me in the morning, I fell at his feet, and with a flood of tears, told him, I never could be his wife. His aſtoniſhment at this declaration, was inexpreſſible,

but raiſing me in the moſt tender manner, he aſked me the reaſon why I made him thus miſerable. Upon this, both being ſeated, I told him he was a few moments ago, upon the point of irretrievable perdition, by being about to marry a tranſported convict.

Theſe words ſeemed to make very little impreſſion upon him, and I was obliged to repeat them, before I could get him to ſpeak a word. 'Madam, ſaid he, at laſt, 'had my acquaintance with you been of 'yeſterday, your declaration had made 'ſome impreſſion on my pride, but it 'makes none, I have ſeen too many in-'ſtances of thoſe virtues, for which I firſt 'loved you, to abandon you now.' 'Alas! Sir, replied I, your generoſity 'touches my heart, but I cannot alter my 'reſolution of not giving you my hand; a 'thouſand reaſons forbid it. Eſteem, gra-'titude, prudence, every virtuous conſi-'deration, is againſt ſuch an attachment; 'how could your friends bear the reproach, 'how could you yourſelf bear the reflec-

'tion.

'tion, in thoſe cooler moments of matri-
'mony, when paſſion is diſſipated, and
'things are conſidered with a more ſeri-
'ous eye; conſider, Sir, by what name
'might your enemies brand the mother
'of your children.'— At this expreſſion, he ſtarted from his ſeat. — 'Hold, ma-
'dam, ſaid he, ſay no more, if you love
'my peace, be ſilent.' Having ſaid this, he walked through the room; but his limbs faultring beneath him, he was obliged to throw himſelf into an eaſy chair; drops both of tears and ſweat run down his face, and the violence of his emotions, join'd to the wildneſs of his looks, diſcovered all the agonies of a ſoul torn by a thouſand paſſions. The ſight of ſo much anguiſh, calm'd my ſpirits, notwithſtanding their agitation; I ran for ſome hartſhorn, which he took without any difficulty, and I was overjoy'd in a few minutes, to ſee him come to a perfect compoſure of mind and perſon; he ſat and walk'd about for upwards of half an hour, without ſpeaking a word. 'Madam, ſaid he at laſt, the diſcovery
'you have made, is a matter of too much

'delicacy, for me not to leave you mis-
'treſs of your own conduct, but it is im-
'poſſible for a mind ſuſceptible of this ge-
'nerous behaviour, ever to have been guil-
'ty of any thing, that may make an honeſt
'man bluſh, to own you for his wife, and
'yet I know the tyranny of cuſtom, I
'already feel the injuſtice of the world,
'and I tremble for a thouſand conſequen-
'ces, which may make both you and me,
'and perhaps, our tendereſt concerns un-
'happy. You ſhall not, however, deprive
'me of the pleaſure of being your friend;
'and from this moment, I renounce that
'ridiculous maſk of ſelfiſhneſs which I aſ-
'ſumed, that it might ſecure my wiſhes,
'by diſguiſing my real ſentiments; there-
'fore, if you have that eſteem, that gra-
'titude for me, as you pretend, you will
'ſettle in this iſland, in any ſtation, that
'ten thouſand pounds can command, and
'no accidents in life ſhall ſeparate us in
'friendſhip, however, we have been diſ-
'appointed in love.'

This

This ſpeech made ſo ſtrong an impreſſion on my mind, that I remained for ſome time ſilent; he gueſſed at the cauſe, and conjured me, in the moſt earneſt manner, to lay aſide all thoughts that are injurous to his honour, or my own, and that he was reſolved to confine his regard for me, to a friendſhip ſo pure, and diſintereſted, that he would, if poſſible, forget even the difference of our ſexes.

The ſituation I was now in, is not eaſily to be conceived; I had it in my power to prefer an eaſy independancy to marriage, which was all my ſoul coveted; but then, upon recollecting what had paſſed, I more than ſuſpected, that the author of my happineſs was under a miſtake, that cut me to the heart, in imagining me guilty, of what I was ſo far from committing, that I never was accuſed of it. At the ſame time, I was ſenſible, that the moment this miſtake was removed, I muſt inſtantly become his wife, a ſituation far leſs deſirable to me, than his continuing under that deluſion would procure me.

This conſideration got the better of the other. I thank'd Mr. Manby for his generous offer, and I accepted of it, but upon the expreſs condition, of his taking my bond for the principal and intereſt. He ſmiled at my precaution, and for ſome time vehemently oppoſed it, for reaſons which heighten'd my eſteem of him, but finding me obſtinate, he told me, it ſhould be as I pleaſed, becauſe he knew how to make the matter eaſy.

It happened by good fortune, that our marriage was to have been very private. Mrs. Rowe, Mr. Marſhal, and Mr. Manby's overſeer, a man of very good ſenſe, and very much of a gentleman, were the only perſons who were to have been preſent, and even the parſon himſelf, was to know nothing of it till after he came to Mr. Manby's houſe, to which he had been only invited to ſup that evening. Before Mr. Manby and I parted, we agreed on the manner of diſguiſing to them the reaſons for altering our reſolution. He was to tell his ſiſter, and his overſeer, that

ſome

ſome circumſtances of my concerns in England required to be cleared up, before it would be proper for him to engage with me in marriage, and I was to take Mr. Marſhal in my own hand.

Accordingly, I ſent for Marſhal, as ſoon as I left my apartment, and told him minutely all that had paſſed between Mr. Manby and myſelf. I ſhall never forget in what an attitude he heard me; having before-hand ſufficiently fortified himſelf from his ſnuff-box, when I began to open my ſtory, his mouth opened likewiſe, and as I gradually proceeded, the aperture gradually increaſed, ſo that when I came to a concluſion, the diſtention of his jaws was ſo enormous, that I could not help finiſhing my relation, intereſting as it was, with a loud burſt of laughter, of which, however, he took no manner of notice. At laſt, upon my remaining ſilent, his muſcles relaxed, the enormity of his mouth's aperture ſubſided by degrees, and he ſo far recovered the uſe of ſpeech, that tho' I had finiſhed for ſome minutes, yet he bad me pro-

proceed, without remitting of that extenſion of neck and earneſtneſs of look, which he had aſſumed when I begun my ſtory, and grew ſtill more rigid as I continued it. I told him I had done, and he with a very ſerious ſignificant look, damned me for a fooliſh B——ch. I was too well convinced of the friendſhip and honeſty of the Scotſman, to take this uncouth compliment amiſs. All he meant by it was no more than a mark of his diſapproving my delicacy. This obſervation led me to explain my real views to Marſhal, but tho' he became to be a little better reconciled to them, I could not get him totally to approve of my conduct. An incident which happened a few days after diſconcerted my whole plan of operation.

A planter, who had no children, and was going to ſettle in England, wanted to ſell his plantation. By Mr. Manby's advice, I entered into treaty with him for it, and the price happening to be pretty near the ſum I was to receive, Mr. Manby had prepared draughts for it in England, ſo that

that nothing was wanting but executing the deeds, for compleating the bargain. I was ſtill in Mr. Manby's houſe, and an Engliſh man of war happening at this very time to arrive from England, the captain of which, being very intimate with Mr. Manby, he was invited to make our houſe his own, while he was on ſhore. In the courſe of converſation, the captain, who was to ſail on a cruize in a few days, mentioned his chaplain, who was taken dangerouſly ill, and was brought on ſhore, where he muſt be obliged to leave him, begging Mr. Manby at the ſame time, to aſſiſt him with every thing in his power. Mr. Manby promiſed to do his utmoſt, and the very day the captain ſailed, he took Marſhal along with him to ſee the chaplain, whom he found in a very dangerous way. The patient ſeemed to be perfectly ſenſible of this, and told them, that he had very few affairs to ſettle, but that it would give him great ſatisfaction, if they would take care of a letter and ſome papers, which he had to deliver from a very particular friend in England; he added, that he enquired

quired at every place their ſhip touched at after the perſon to whom it was addreſſed, but to no purpoſe, tho' he was pretty certain, that ſhe was in ſome of our plantations. In ſaying this, he put the letter and papers, which were made up in the form of a packet, but left unſealed, into Mr. Manby's hands, who read the ſuperſcription, but never having heard of the perſon, he gave it to Marſhal, who found it was addreſſed to me. It was with great joy Marſhal told his patient, that he knew the perſon intimately well, and that if he pleaſed, ſhe ſhould be with him that afternoon, but that he thought a long converſation would be very dangerous to one in his condition, and that if he had any thing to communicate, he had better delay it for ſome days. I have nothing, ſaid the ſick man, to ſay, but what ſhe will find in the packet; ſhe will there meet with a full and an authentick vindication of her innocence. Upon this Marſhal put the packet into his pocket, and took leave of his patient.

While

While they were upon their return to Mr. Manby's houſe, Marſhal, who had never been throughly reconciled to my late determination, told Mr. Manby, that the packet was addreſſed to me, with the whole ſtory of my life, ſo far as he knew it; and when they came home, they opened the packet, where they found the original of a long affidavit, which had been made by young Morgan before a judge, containing an ample recital of the injuſtice that had been done me, and making my innocence extremely clear. This was confirmed by ſeveral letters even from old Morgan to his ſon, and ſome affidavits made by the neighbours. After Mr. Manby had peruſed thoſe papers, he came into my room with Morgan's letter, and put it into my hands. You may judge how much I was ſurprized when I received the letter directed to Mrs. Cranwel, and heard Mr. Manby accoſt me by that title. I trembled when I opened and read the letter, and the ſight of Morgan's name, renewing in my mind all the miſeries I had ſuffered, I fainted in Mr. Manby's arms. When I recovered, I found

found that excellent man in an extaſy of joy, not to be deſcribed. He told me, that honeſt Marſhal had informed him of every thing; that he was now ſenſible of my innocence, that the injuries I had ſuffered, the manner in which I had borne them, and my behaviour to himſelf, had endeared me more than ever, and that he would not part with my hand, till it became his. In ſhort, I was obliged the very next day, to comply with his requeſt, but not till I had informed him of my having a ſon in England.

The day after our marriage, I went along with Marſhal and Mr. Manby, to the chaplain's lodging. They indeed were very earneſt with me to delay my viſit, but my impatience to hear ſomewhat of you, and my ſiſter in law, got the better of all conſiderations, and by good luck we found the patient ſo much recovered, that Marſhal pronounced him to be out of danger. I entered with great eagerneſs into converſation with him, and found him to be the ſame parſon, who had employed your father

father as his curate. He ſaid that he had come to his living about a month after I had been ſhipped off, and falling into a kind of intimacy with young Morgan, he had charged him with the letter and papers, that had been delivered to me. But I had the mortification to hear, that he knew nothing about my ſiſter in law, and that honeſt Ramſgate the farmer, had died a very few days after he had returned to his living. This filled me with the moſt cruel uneaſineſs, as Ramſgate was the only perſon I could apply to for intelligence, and I now began to ſee the reaſon why I had been ſo unfortunate in all my enquiries. I had recourſe to young Morgan's letter, but there I found nothing to inform me, of what I chiefly wanted to know. He wrote indeed, in a very paſſionate penitential ſtile, as being the author of my misfortune; telling me, his father had given him up his eſtate, which, with his hand, was at my ſervice, as ſoon as he knew in what part of the world I was; with many proteſtations of the ſame nature, to which I gave very little attention.

This

This is the ſum of what I had to inform you; I think my duty to the memory of your dear father obliges me to vindicate the mother of his ſon, in as ample a manner as poſſible, and that is the reaſon why I have been ſo circumſtantial in my relation. Mr. Manby proved the ſame tender generous huſband as lover; we never had any children, and, having no relations alive at the time of his death, he left me in poſſeſſion of all his fortune, excepting ſome inconſiderable legacies to a few of his particular friends. Upon his death, I formed a reſolution of returning to England, where I did not doubt of finding ſome friend, or relation, whom I could make happy, for I had for ſome time diſpaired of recovering you; all my efforts, and thoſe of Mr. Manby for that purpoſe, having been in vain. But the large concerns I have in this iſland, and the neceſſary attention required to diſpoſe of my effects to advantage, have hitherto detained me. The night I firſt ſaw you, I was ſeized with an irreſiſtible impulſe from the reſemblance you had to your father; your behaviour,

haviour, eſpecially to that inſignificant puppy Dotterel, who I perceived had already married me in his own fooliſh fond imagination, prepoſſeſſed me ſtill more in your favour, and I have now nothing more to wiſh for, than to return with you to England, and ſee you happily ſettled in life.

END OF VOL. I.